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NO. 7888 TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1990/ZULQAD 12, 1410 AH 24 PAGES 150 FILLS

Kuwait regrets American veto

Soviet Jews free to live anywhere: Shamir

KUWAIT, June 4, (Agencies): Kuwait today officially expressed its disappointment over the US veto of a UN Security Council investigation commission to the Israeli-occupied territories.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Kuwait's stance was relayed by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al-Ossaimi, to the US Ambassador Wilson Nathaniel Howell who

was summoned to the Foreign Ministry for the purpose.

The spokesman said Ossaimi expressed Kuwait's "extreme regret and disappointment over the US vetoing of the resolution because such an attitude harms the Palestinian human rights in the occupied Arab territories and at the same time encourages Israel to go ahead with its oppressive policy against the Palestinian people," the spokesman said.

Down with chest pain Michael Jackson ill

SANTA MONICA, California, June 4, (AP): Pop superstar Michael Jackson was treated in a hospital emergency room after he complained of chest pains, officials said.

Jackson, 31, entered the emergency room of St. John's Hospital and Health Centre last night, Jackson spokesman Bob Jones and hospital spokeswoman Paulette Weir said in a statement.

"According to his physician, he is in stable condition and appropriate tests are being conducted," the statement said.

There was no immediate word on whether Jackson was admitted to the hospital. A hospital telephone switchboard operator said early today that no more information would be available until later in the day.

Lee Solters, Jackson's spokesman, said the singer and dancer had no history of heart problems. He would not comment further.

Jackson was catapulted into the public eye at age 5 with the Jackson Five family pop group.

The reclusive star, known for wearing one white glove on stage, has been celebrated as widely for his eccentricities as for his music and choreography.

Fine, jail for health defaulters

KUWAIT, June 4, (Kuna): The Public Health Ministry today called upon travellers coming to Kuwait from disease-infected areas to check with preventive health centres on entering the country.

Director of the ministry's health and training department Dr. Rashid Al-Owaisah said today all necessary steps had been taken to control disease-carriers incoming from abroad.

Dr. Owaisah warned defaulters against cash fines and a one month prison sentence in case they failed to report, adding the Health Ministry and the Interior Ministry would be planning together to see that the instruction is carried through by newcomers.

He noted that in order to guard against outbreak of summer diseases, a new health control card would be handed out to arrivals from infected areas at the country's various inlets obliging them to report to local health centres within 72 hours from entry to Kuwait.

The new health control card, with a serial number, will oblige its holder to report to the centre only once instead of the previous four times, the official explained.

Foodstuffs brought into Kuwait by arriving passengers would be prohibited, Dr. Owaisah said in order to prevent such common infections as diarrhoea and cholera. He indicated that the food ban will extend from early June to the first of next November.

Dr. Owaisah also advised the public to avoid exposing themselves to mosquito bites which can cause malaria and reminded vaccinationists of vaccination before setting on their tours.

He concluded that a public enlightenment campaign would be launched by the ministry for the purpose.

Frankoparis shares: Shares of Frankoparis, a Kuwaiti-French real-estate company for commerce and industry, will be issued at 190 francs (\$33.33) apiece at the Paris Stock Exchange, it was announced here by Frankoparis.

The public offer, at the "second market" of the Paris Stock Market will begin on June 8. (Kuna) (See Page 13)

Transcripts for sale: Corruption has become so rampant in President Corazon Aquino's government that even transcripts of her cabinet meetings are sold, a former Aquino adviser said yesterday.

Former Aquino reform secretary Miriam Santiago, a feisty ex-judge whom Aquino dismissed in a cabinet reshuffle after last December's failed army coup, said the transcripts were "faxed throughout the world to anyone who is willing to buy them." (Reuters)

Chinese students defy police: Students at Beijing University defied police in a second night of protests yesterday by flinging bottles out of dormitory windows on the anniversary of last year's military crackdown on China's democracy movement.

Security forces armed with submachine-guns evicted foreign reporters from the area and sealed off the campus district in northern Beijing with roadblocks. (Reuters) (See Page 6)

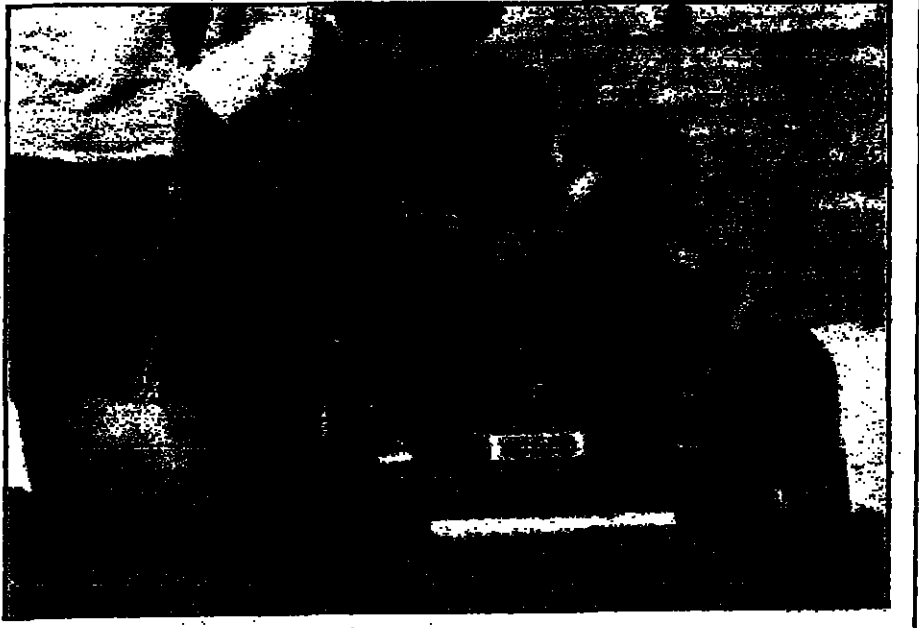
King Olav in hospital: Norway's King Olav, the world's oldest reigning monarch, contracted pneumonia in hospital yesterday after being partially paralyzed by a stroke. (Reuters)

Arabs to mediate: Gulf Arab states are trying to get the presidents of Iran and Iraq together for talks on ending a decade of conflict, an Omani minister said on Sunday.

"Efforts are being exerted," the Omani News Agency quoted Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah as saying. (Reuters)

Psychologist detained: Police yesterday detained a psychologist whose recordings of lamenting ghosts alleged to haunt an empty Madrid palace sent shivers through Spain.

A police spokesman gave no details except to say that Carmen de Sanchez Castro was being held at Madrid's police headquarters on a judge's orders. (Reuters)



Maradona in Rome
Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona kisses his eldest daughter Daina Nerea before joining a World Cup practice at his team's training ground in Trigoria, 60 km from Rome. (Reuters wirephoto) (See also Page 22)

Benazir's party vows to stamp out ethnic violence in Sind

ISLAMABAD, June 4, (Reuters): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) vowed yesterday to stamp out ethnic violence which killed more than 350 people in Sind province in the past week.

But a spokesman said after a party meeting in Islamabad that the province's PPP government would also seek peace through a dialogue with political parties.

Benazir discussed the violence in Sind and a militant Muslim independence cam-

paign in India's Jammu and Kashmir state with the PPP's central and provincial legislators and the spokesman said.

He said Sind's authorities had arrested about 1,300 people since ethnic clashes erupted a week ago in the cities of Karachi and Hyderabad.

Speakers at the meeting blamed the violence on the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) and on Sindhi nationalists, saying the rival groups had created

virtual fortresses in their strongholds.

"The operation should continue until every terrorist is arrested and fortress gates are demolished," the meeting resolved.

"We decided that we will maintain law and order at all costs, even if we have to sacrifice power," State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ahmad Awan said. "We are prepared to make that sacrifice."

The Sind government has called a peace conference for Wednesday and Awan said

all parties having influence in the province, including the MQM, would be invited.

An MQM spokesman in Karachi said his party had not yet received an invitation. "We will think about participation after getting the invitation," he added.

But more than half a dozen political parties confirmed that they planned to attend the talks, called after Benazir ordered the provincial government to set up an action committee to advise on law and order.



Iranian mourners cry outside Khomeini's house in a Tehran suburb as a six-day mourning period for the late leader began. (Reuters wirephoto)

Iran chants 'death to America'

One year later...smaller crowds mourn Khomeini

TEHRAN, June 4, (AP): Iranian spiritual leader Ali Khamenei stressed today that the nation will follow the path of Ayatollah Khomeini, but the first anniversary of the patriarch's death drew smaller-than-expected crowds.

"Death to America," "Death to Israel," blared loudspeakers around the compound.

Inside the packed shrine, mourners listened as speakers recited Quranic verses. The grey-bearded Khomeini seemed to stare sternly at

the crowd from pictures hung on the pillars.

"While there is Islam, we will not forget the imam," read one banner. Khomeini was considered the imam, or supreme spiritual leader.

But Iranians marked the first anniversary of his death in sharp contrast to the bizarre outpouring of grief last year.

At that time, about 6 million frenzied mourners had poured into the streets, pounding their heads with clenched fists, beating their chests and scratching their faces to draw blood.

Today's event, which climaxed a four-day mourning period, gathered no more than 3 million people around the shrine on the outskirts of Tehran, far less than expected, according to foreign reporters who flew over the scene by helicopter.

Iran's official news media, however, said the occasion drew 8-9 million people.

Tehran, normally a hodgepodge of activity, was almost dead and streets were virtually deserted. Many residents apparently preferred to take the chance to stay home rather than go to the shrine.

At the shrine the atmosphere was more that of a social gathering than a sad event.

Only a few mourners beat their chests in the traditional Shiite Muslim expression of grief, although larger groups of mourners would occasionally tap their chests in symbolic fashion.

Addressing the crowd, Khamenei, also an ayatollah, said "the imam's line is that same line which we pledge to follow."

Inside the shrine, which was segregated by sex, a few people fainted due to the sweltering heat. Guards sprayed water from pesticide sprays to cool the crowd in 33 degree.

Groups of disabled men in wheelchairs, reminders of the eight-year war which Khomeini stubbornly continued only to back down in August 1988, were pushed into the shrine by Revolutionary Guards wearing black armbands to mark the occasion.

A young soldier who showed the blisters on his feet from three days of walking to get here from an outlying town said only that "I came last year, and I had to come again this year."

Thousands of mourners were bused in from villages, towns and other cities. Soldiers, conscripts and other civil servants were ordered to attend the ceremonies. Hundreds of Shiites also came from Pakistan, India, Syria, and Lebanon.

Iranian television, which aired live coverage of the funeral last year, did not broadcast any of the commemorations live.

(See also Page 8)



Ustinov's show
Peter Ustinov, 69, who has just finished a successful show in London's West End, is the personification of versatility.

Makkah beckons

Soviet Muslims press Moscow

MOSCOW, June 4, (Reuters): Soviet Muslim supporters of a new Islamic revival party are meeting in Moscow this week to press the Kremlin for greater freedom to visit the holy city of Makkah.

"We'll stay in Moscow until the state grants all Soviet Muslims full freedom to go to Makkah," said Abbas Kebedov, the party's joint organizer. "If need be, we'll protest in the squares or go hungry. This pilgrimage is a sacred duty."

Threat to kill Kaifu

TOKYO, June 4, (AP): Colombia's Medellin drug cartel has threatened to kill Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu if his government does not free Colombian arrested in Japan on drug charges, a television network reported today.

Fuji Television Network Inc. said that on three occasions since December 1989, Japanese police investigators have received letters signed by the cartel demanding the release of the Colombians.

It said the letters threatened that if they are not released the cartel will kill Kaifu. Kokichi Shimoinaba, a legislator who represented Japan at a special United Nations conference on drugs, Tachio Oochori chief of the Tokyo metropolitan police department, and several other officials.

A spokesman for the prime minister's office refused to comment on the reports. Police agency spokesman said they had not received official word on the threats.

Korean leader to meet Gorby

N. Korean envoy recalled

SAN FRANCISCO, June 4, (Agencies): South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo hoped today a historic meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev could open a new era of trade and diplomacy between the two nations.

Roh arrived yesterday for a first-ever meeting between the leaders of the two nations, calling it "an event of extraordinary significance." The South Korean leader sought to establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union with the hope Moscow would use its influence to get North Korea to ease its hostility and reach reunification terms with South Korea.

Roh was to fly to Washington to brief President Bush on his meeting with Gorbachev and to urge him to maintain the US military presence in Korea. The US plans to recall 7,000 of its 43,000 troops there within three years and Roh hopes to persuade Bush not to further reduce the force without corresponding moves from North Korea to reduce tension.

North Korea's ambassador to Moscow has been recalled

apparently in reaction to talks between leaders of South Korea and the Soviet Union, the national news agency said.

In Washington Bush said today he was pleased with the results of the superpower summit and that allied leaders, including West German leader Helmut Kohl whose nation's future was at the core of the talks, believed the meeting was a success.

"I'm very pleased with the results of the summit," Bush said at the start of cabinet meeting in the White House.

"There were some problems. I never said there wouldn't be," he said of the four days of talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that concluded yesterday.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, discussing efforts to unite the two Germanys, said: "The German question clearly is going to be resolved in an incremental fashion."

After the cabinet meeting Bush met United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who told him: "I hope to take advantage of what you have achieved" at the summit.

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Bomb kills four kids in Amritsar

PATIALA, India, June 4, (Reuters): At least six people, including four schoolchildren, were killed today by two bombs, probably planted by Sikh militants, in India's northern Punjab state, police said.

The children were killed when a bomb planted on a bicycle went off near a Hindu temple where the children were drinking sweetened water in celebration of a Hindu festival, director-general of Punjab police K. P. S. Gill told reporters.

The noontime blast in the southeastern city of Patiala injured 26 others. Two of them were listed in critical condition in hospital, he said.

The second bomb went off a half-hour later on a motor scooter, whose driver was taking one of the injured in the temple blast to hospital, Gill said. Both men were killed on the spot, but no one else was injured.

Police had earlier said 60 people were injured in the two explosions.

India delays Escap meeting

BANGKOK, Thailand, June 4, (AP): India's dispute with Fiji over ethnic rights delayed the opening of a 47-nation annual meeting of the UN Social and Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific for several hours today.

India opposed Fiji's chairmanship of the meeting. The move was seen as retaliation for the closure of the Indian embassy in Suva last month and the expulsion of Indian diplomats from Fiji, said a UN official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

More than 300 senior officials, including 22 ministers and deputy ministers from 47 countries were to attend the 10-day session of the commission called Escap. It is the 46th annual meeting of the organization.

After a closed-door meeting lasting several hours, Indian delegates backed down and Fiji's Minister for Trade and Industry Berenado Vunibobo was elected chairman, allowing the meeting to proceed, the official said.

In a statement, Vinay Verma, India's permanent representative to Escap, said India set aside its objection in part "to maintain the sanctity of the crucially important principle of consensus which has always guided our deliberations in Escap."

The statement also cited the apparent unwillingness of any other country to take over the chairmanship and India's "excellent" relations with Pacific island countries.

Fiji reportedly had opposed a compromise suggestion to hand the chairmanship over to Thailand, the host country, the UN official said.

Verma's statement said India's dispute with Fiji stemmed from the "illegal overthrow by military force of the earlier democratically elected government and its attempt to institutionalise racial discrimination."

Cory seeks OIC help

Manila move to thwart Moro Front's bid

MANILA, June 4, (Agencies): President Corason Aquino today appealed to visiting Senegal President Abdou Diouf to help her end the Muslim separatist conflict in the southern Philippines.

Diouf, who will become president of the Organisation of Islamic Conference at the annual meeting in August in Cairo, was Aquino's luncheon guest at the Malacanang presidential palace on the second day of his three-day visit.

"It is our hope, Mr President, that you would continue to help us in our effort to bring about lasting peace and prosperity in our country,"

particularly in the areas where our Muslim brethren live," Aquino said. The OIC is mediating the conflict between the Manila government and the Moro National Liberation Front, which wants a separate Muslim state on Mindanao island. The Front has rejected Aquino's autonomy offer and is seeking to join the OIC.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus told reporters after the luncheon, Diouf "showed a lot of interest and sympathy to the Philippines" and promised to inform the OIC of Manila's position on the Mindanao problem.



Gorbys in Minnesota

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife Raisa stroll into the crowd gathered along their motorcade route

after departing a meeting with the state governor in Minneapolis. (Reuters wirephoto) Details Page 7

Manila sends troops to rescue abducted Japanese

MANILA, June 4, (UPI): Troops have been sent to rescue a Japanese rural technician kidnapped by communist guerrillas in the central island of Negros, the province governor said today.

Meanwhile in the capital's financial district, the Japanese embassy was evacuated today after an anonymous male caller said by telephone a bomb had been planted in its premises, police said. No bomb was found and after two hours employees returned to their offices.

Negros Governor Daniel Lacson said in a radio interview emissaries had contacted guerrillas holding Fumio Mizuno, 36, but said they had not respon-

ded to messages.

Lacson said no ransom demand had been received since Mizuno, training director of the Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement, was kidnapped Tuesday in Murcia municipality, 300 miles (480 km) south of Manila.

He said troops had been sent to surround the village of Minuyan in Murcia while emissaries from OISCA, a non-government agency helping poor farmers in the impoverished sugar-producing island, attempt to secure the release of the Japanese believed held in the area.

Manglapus said he had received diplomatic reports that the MNL "will never be taken up seriously."

Muslim autonomy was among the promises Aquino made when she assumed power in the 1986 "people power" revolution that toppled the late president Ferdinand Marcos.

In September 1986, Aquino flew to the southern island of Sulu for an unprecedented meeting with MNLF chief Nur Misuari.

But peace talks with the MNLF broke down in 1987 over differences in interpretation of autonomy.

Last year, voters in most southern provinces rejected the government's offer of autonomy. Four of the 10 southern provinces agreed to join an autonomous region.

Elections for the regional government were held in February, but the winner has not yet been proclaimed because of allegations of widespread cheating by followers of both the pro-government candidate, Zaccaria Candao, and his opponent, Ali Dinaporo, a long-time Marcos supporter.

Masked men fatally stabbed a US Navy officer as he was getting a massage in his house outside the US Subic Bay Naval Base, police and US military officials said.

Four suspects, all relatives of a former Philippine girlfriend of the American, were later arrested, police said yesterday.

Seven killed in mine collapse

PUTAN, Philippines, June 4, (Reuters): Rescue workers have dug out the bodies of seven miners and are searching for 20 others missing since Wednesday when a tunnel collapsed in a mine in the southern Philippines, police said today.

They said the tunnel caved in because of heavy rain. Bad weather in Surigao del Norte province was hampering the search for the missing men, who are presumed dead.

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City of Angels wins six Tonys

NEW YORK, June 4. (Reuters) The hit show *City of Angels* became the first American musical in years to dominate Broadway's Tony ceremony yesterday, winning six of the awards including one for best musical.

The buoyant, jazzy satire of 1940s Hollywood and private eye films won Tonys for Cy Coleman and Larry Gelbart for best score and best book (script) respectively, as well as best actor for leading man James Naughton.

Best play honours at Broadway's biggest awards went to *The Grapes of Wrath*, an adaptation of John Steinbeck's novel of migrant workers in the depression.

British actress Maggie Smith, twice

nominated in the past, won the award for best actress in a play for her flamboyant performance as a tour guide who makes up stories about the history of a manor house in *Letice and Lovage*.

The show originated in London and the cast and crew were brought over to New York. "You've made us all feel so very welcome," Smith said.

"I can't tell you how generous the audiences are here. They show you how they feel," she added, recalling that her first professional job was in New York in 1956.

City of Angels cleverly mixes two plots — a writer struggling to retain his integrity while adapting his detective novel for the

screen, and the private eye story itself. Past Tony awards — Broadway's equivalent of Hollywood Oscars — have been dominated by productions imported from London's West End such as *Cats*, *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *My Gal*.

Close behind *City of Angels* was *Grand Hotel*, *The Musical*, Tommu Tume's adaptation of the Vicky Baum novel about Nazi Berlin. Although it opened to mixed reviews, the show surprisingly won five Tonys, including two for time for best direction of a musical and choreography.

Best actress in a musical went to Tyne Daly for *Gypsy*. Daly, best known for her television performances in *Cagney* and

Lacey, played the role of Mama Rose first made famous by Ethel Merman. The show also won the award for best revival.

Robert Morse was named best actor in a play for *Tru*, a one-man show in which he plays author Truman Capote with uncanny accuracy. "I know his spirit is somewhere around," Morse said.

Other acting awards for featured roles went to Charles Durning, who played big daddy in a revival of *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof* and Margaret Tyack as Maggie Smith's prickly superior in *Letice and Lovage*.

Randy Graff won for best performance by a featured actress in a musical as the loyal secretary in *City of Angels*.



Actress Bernadette Peters shown arriving at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre for the Tony Awards, June 3 in New York. (Reuters wirephoto)



The Tony Award winners pose together. From left to right: James Naughton, Maggie Smith, Tyne Daly and Robert Morse. (Reuters wirephoto)

SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts: More than 30 years ago, a college prank cut short Fay Vincent's hopes of an athletic career. Early this month, the baseball commissioner returns to the college campus where his dreams were shattered.

But the baseball commissioner said his trip to Williams College as a commencement speaker would not resurrect bad memories of the fall that left him permanently injured.

"It's a very nice honour," Vincent said. "It was a wonderful college. I got a fine education."

A 1960 graduate of the school in the picturesque Berkshire community of Williamstown, Vincent was the strapping captain of the freshman football team when he was locked in his room by a friend. Climbing out the window onto an icy ledge, Vincent slipped and fell four stories, crushing two vertebrae.

Doctors rebuilt the vertebrae, but Vincent must still sometimes use a cane to walk. (AP)

AUSTIN, Texas: Robert N. Noyce, an inventor of a tiny computer chip that revolutionised the electronics industry and created the era of high technology, died on Sunday of a heart attack, aged 62.

Noyce became ill at his Texas home and died after being taken by ambulance to Seton Medical Centre, a hospital spokeswoman said. He never regained consciousness. (Reuters)

LOS ANGELES: Frederick Mellinger, whose Frederick's of Hollywood introduced racy lingerie to a post-war America squeezed into white girdles and boring briefs, has died of pneumonia. He was 76.

The purveyor of colourful, risqué underwear that included satin bustiers, edible panties and peckaboo bras died Saturday night at his home, family attorney Morris Field said Sunday. (AP)

Crazed Bogota drug-runner Jumps from 4th floor

ROME, June 4. (Reuters) A crazed Colombian drug-runner jumped to his death from a fourth-floor hotel window yesterday after a heroin capsule broke inside his body.

An Italian police spokesman described the incident as a "work accident" and said Jorge Reina Rojas, 41, went wild when the heroin reached his bloodstream, smashing furniture in a frenzy before hurling himself from the window.

Police said they found about 50 capsules containing about 500 grammes of heroin in the room and said Rojas had been trying to expel a capsule from his body when it broke.

Smugglers often swallow sealed packet of drugs before crossing borders, then recover them later.

Police arrested Rojas' wife Elisabetta Lopez Calderon, 23, who flew in with him from Bogota on Saturday, on drug charges.

NEW YORK: Walter Davis Jr a bebop pianist and composer, had died of complications from liver and kidney disease. He was 57.

One of the main interpreters of the legacy of the pianist, Bud Powell, Davis was recently admitted to New York hospital-Cornell Medical Centre, where he died Saturday.

In the 1940s, he worked with the singer Ella Fitzgerald's group Three Eyes and a Hip, and by the early 1950s he was appearing with Charlie Parker and drummer Max Roach's first band. (AP)

SARASOTA, Florida: More than 50 years after their deaths, circus magnate John Ringling and his wife, Mable, may be on their way to a final resting place.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal in Lakeland on Wednesday upheld a 1989 judge's order allowing burial of the Ringlings at the Sarasota art museum that bears their name.

Sarasota was the winter home of the Ringling brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, and the Ringlings were benefactors of the museum. Ringling died in 1936, seven years after his wife. (AP)

MIAMI, Texas: They cocked their heads and bellowed. But this wasn't just any barnyard talk. About three dozen people competed Sunday in the 42nd annual national cow calling contest.

"Volume is the key," Dana Brown said after winning the women's title. The judges "are out there in the field and they want to be able to hear it."

Mr Brown was awarded a plaque and \$50 for her loud, long bovine bellowing in front of about 1,000 onlookers. She was raised on a farm and explained that cow calling comes with the territory. (AP)

NEW YORK: The Australian rock band Midnight Oil took its environment theme to the streets, performing amid the skyscrapers of midtown Manhattan for a lunchtime crowd.

"We've got a mega-crisis on our hands that we all have to approach," lead singer Peter Garrett said after Wednesday's performance. "We've got a crisis that our leaders, corporations and governments have a prime responsibility to address seriously."

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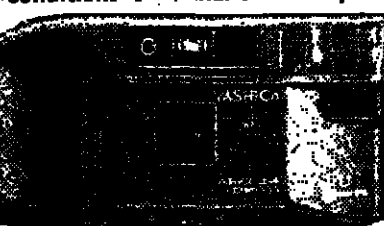
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Contras disarm at steady pace

MANAGUA, June 4, (UPI): Contra rebels in Nicaragua are disarming at a steady pace, but far below the 500-a-day goal that would complete the demobilization by June 10, as promised, UN sources indicated yesterday.

Records kept by observers from the United Nations observer group for Central America, known as Onuca, show that 3,467 of an estimated 13,000 rebels have handed in weapons to peace-keeping forces in five security zones set up in the country.

Contra Commander in Chief Israel Galano, known as commander Franklin, said last week the rebels would resume the demobilisation they had suspended a week earlier. He said that 500 combatants a day would disarm until the process was completed.

An Onuca source yesterday said records show that 292 Contras disarmed Friday and 362 on Saturday.

"According to the agreement, they ought to be disarming 500 a day, and I see there is a deficit in that respect," the Onuca source told United Press International.

The process had halted as Contra leaders met for further discussions with officials of President Violeta Chamorro's government to secure guarantees for rebels returning to civilian life after nine years of US-supported warfare against the Sandinista government.

In the most recent talks, the Contras agreed to restart the stalled disarmament process after Chamorro's government pledged to build resettlement areas, or "development poles" as they are known here, that will include housing and schools, hospitals, electricity and water services, jobs and land for cultivation.

Demobilization was resumed on May 30 with 498 combatants handing in weapons.

The Sandinistas lost to Chamorro in February elections. Chamorro assumed the presidency April 25.

Contra leaders and UN officials have expressed doubts the demobilisation can be completed by June 10, as promised by the Contras, although Galano said the rebels "will be complying with what we promised President Chamorro."

Each combatant who lays down his arms receives a demobilization certificate, a new set of clothing, boots and a medical certificate from the Organisation of American States' support and verification commission.

The agreement to set up resettlement areas for the Contras has drawn complaints from the Sandinistas, who see the concessions as excessive and claim little is being done for members of the Sandinista army that were wounded in the war with the Contras.

The United States, which funded the Contra war against the Sandinista government since 1981, has earmarked \$47 million for the demobilization. The figure is part of a \$300 million emergency aid package to the Chamorro government. The first US aid arrived in Managua on Thursday.

■ **Mexico:** Opposition political parties said vote rigging marred yesterday special mayoral election, which was called after mayor's race results six months were annulled for that reason.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has promised to clean up the Mexican election process that has helped his institutional Revolutionary Party, known as the PRI, keep a strong grip on national politics for 61 years.

But opposition party representatives said the longstanding practice of shaving names from voter lists was alive and well yesterday in Urupán, Michoacan state's second-largest city. (AP)

■ **Salvador:** The archbishop of San Salvador yesterday said the year-old government of President Alfredo Cristiani has failed to bring reform and has worsened the plight of the poor.

"I believe that (Cristiani) is working to maintain the system, favouring a market economy which is making the poor yet poorer," Monsignor Arturo Rivera Damas said during his Sunday homily.

Cristiani, 42, took office on June 1, 1989, after defeating his centrist Christian Democratic opponent. He called for the coming year to be "the year of peace" after 10 years of war with rebels of the leftist Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front. (AP)

■ **Brazil:** Brazil's government, under intense world pressure to save the dwindling Amazon rain forest, has devised a plan to use its armed forces to fight annual orgy of burning and logging.

Belfast's 'peace lines' getting a face-lift

BELFAST, June 4, (Reuters): While the Berlin Wall comes down, the walls of Belfast are having a face-lift.

Nowadays they come in a variety of styles and pleasant colours, set in landscaped lawns with the flowerbeds at their feet. They could belong to parks or elegant private estates.

But these walls are meant to stop people killing each other. They're the "peace lines" of northern Ireland's capital, the barriers that for two decades of guerrilla conflict have divided Protestant and Roman Catholic ghettos.

For most of that time the peace lines were high corrugated-iron fences, roughly patched up when they rusted or were torn down in the violence between Catholic nationalists seeking unity with Ireland and Protestants who want to remain part of Britain.

Gradually, the British government has been replacing the shabby eyesores with red-brick walls, tall railings and steel panels the strength of which is overlaid with gleaming new paint.

Police said last week that yet another barrier is to be added to the network which sprouts at strategic points across the city.

"While other people pull their walls down we're rebuilding ours — nicely decorated," said one Belfast resident.

The comparison with Berlin and the Iron Curtain has also been made by moderate nationalist leader John Hume, who rejects the violent route to Irish unity chosen by guerrillas of the Irish Republican Army.

"Barriers are coming down all over Europe," he said. "Are we to be the last?"

The British government denies that

the solid look of the new peace lines signals permanence and pessimism over the solution of a conflict that has claimed almost 3,000 lives in the past 20 years.

"They're something that was here anyway. Since they're a reality we only want to make them more attractive," said one official.

"We could still bring them down easily, even gleefully."

"They're what the people in those areas want on both sides. It seems to give communities a sense of reassurance."

The government is also pouring money into building neat brick houses to replace bleak terraces of sub-standard houses that fuelled the Catholic minority's charges of discrimination.

Even the notorious Divis flats are coming down.



Peter Ustinov.

Embodiment of versatility Ustinov in demand

LONDON, June 4, (Reuters): "I see myself as an elderly gundog sitting before the fire," said Peter Ustinov. "If something passes by that smells good, I grab it."

Ustinov, 69, who has just finished a successful show in London's West End, is the personification of versatility.

He has published plays and novels, his acting skills have won him two Oscars for supporting roles in the films "Spartacus" and "Topkapi", and he is in constant demand to appear on television chat shows for his skills as a witty and urbane raconteur.

Yet he still finds time to perform and raise money for children around the world as a goodwill ambassador for Unicef, the United Nations Children's Fund.

The British-born entertainer, who says he speaks English, American, French, German, Italian and some Russian, attributes the range of his talents to his mixed background.

His father, who held the German title of baron, had Russian, Swiss and Ethiopian blood. His mother, the artist Nadia Renois, was half-Russian, a quarter-French and a quarter-Italian.

His father's siblings were German, Canadian, Argentine and Lebanese.

"If we had a passport control at one of our family reunions we'd never meet each other," he told Reuters during an interview at his rented apartment in London's fashionable Chelsea district.

In his show at London's theatre Royal Haymarket, which received glowing critical reviews, he told a delighted and packed audience tales of his childhood and careers in the army and acting.

Of his childhood, he said: "I never believed in Father Christmas, but I thought my parents did."

Of his army career, he told a recruiting officer that he wanted to join the tank corps during World War Two because "I'd rather go into battle sitting down."

He told how a policeman walked up to British actor Alec Guinness while he was being photographed in London made up for a part as Hitler, with his car parked nearby.

The policeman said he would not book Guinness for a parking offence as "I have no intention of spending the rest of my life in a concentration camp."

Ustinov is well-known for his screen role as Agatha Christie's fictional detective Hercule Poirot, whom he has portrayed in three movies and three made-for-television films.

Asked why he felt he had been popular as Poirot, Ustinov said: "I'm a character actor and it's a character part. But I'm not a bit like Poirot. He seems to get his kicks from lip reading at extreme range, or loitering near a keyhole to pick up what's being wafted across."

"I have a feeling that for the moment Poirot is a little exhausted because it's always the same formula," he said when asked if he planned more Poirot films.

Switching into the detective's Belgian accent he added: "We will all meet in the bathroom where all will be revealed."

Next month Ustinov takes his one-man show to Australia and New Zealand, where he expected to do some work for Unicef.

He plans to publish a novel in October but, when asked what it was about, added: "It's very difficult to say."

Tried to create 'third force' in UK politics

Social Democrats vote themselves out of existence

LONDON, June 4, (AP): The Social Democratic Party has killed itself off after nine years of trying to create a moderate third force in British politics.

Leader David Owen said yesterday that the decision was inevitable after party membership collapsed from a peak of 68,000 to 6,200. Party organisers said a number of members had not paid their subscriptions for this year and they expect membership to go down to 4,000 by the end of 1990.

The party has three legislators in the 650-member House of Commons. The trio will continue to hold their seats as independent Social Democrats.

The party was formed in January 1981, promising to "break the mold of British politics." It sought the middle ground between the dominant Conservative and Labour parties. The Social Democrats hoped they would eventually displace Labour which they accused of going too far left.

Many commentators predicted that Labour would never achieve power again after Margaret Thatcher won her second general election victory in 1983 and then consolidated it in 1987.

But the Social Democrats not only never got within sight of their target. They never even managed to displace the old centrist Liberal Party with whom they formed an uneasy alliance that won 22 parliamentary seats in the last general election in 1987.

The SDP was founded by the "gang of four" — Owen and three other former cabinet ministers who abandoned Labour when it lurched to the left after Conservative leader Thatcher was first elected prime minister.

Other defectors joined, giving the SDP 29 parliamentary seats by the 1983 general

election, and the party forged a union called the alliance with the old-established Liberal Party.

The alliance failed to make gains in the last national election in 1987, and soon after Thatcher's third victory, Liberal leader David Steel announced plans for "democratic fusion" between the Liberals and the Social Democrats to become the Social and Liberal Democrats (SLD), now led by Paddy Ashdown.

Most SDP members went along with the change but Owen, a physician and former Labour foreign secretary, wanted no part of it.

Lords oppose 'Nazis trials'

LONDON, June 4, (AP): Opposition in the House of Lords to a law that would allow trials of suspected Nazi war criminals has outraged many in Britain, who say the bill's defeat would violate the nation's conscience.

But some Lords, many of whom fought in World War II as young officers, feel it is too late to act. Others raise legal objections to the law.

Opponents, including eminent lawyers, argue that retrospective legislation is wrong in principle; that after a lapse of some 50 years fair trials are impossible; that it is wrong or distasteful to haul old men into court; and that the hearings will become "show trials."

"Old men forget," commented former prime minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home, 86, during an earlier debate in the Lords.

The Lords were scheduled to debate the war crimes bill yesterday. Britain is the only World War II ally without laws to prosecute war crimes suspects.

A no vote could also prompt a constitutional conflict.

It would be the Lords' first outright rejection of a Commons bill, flouting a long-established tradition that the Lords revise clauses but never throw out bills wholesale.

"For the Lords to exercise their power to delay this bill, when time is clearly of the essence would provoke a constitutional conflict," Graham Zelik, a constitutional lawyer at London University wrote in a letter to the Times of London.

"The pre-eminence of the elected house is an overriding constitutional imperative."

After initial signals it would abandon the war crimes bill, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government changed tactics as the controversy grew.

Officials indicated in unattributable briefings before the vote that if the Lords vote no tonight the government will reintroduce the bill during the next parliamentary session starting in November.

The powers of Britain's unique upper chamber, consisting mostly of hereditary aristocrats, judges, bishops and politicians given life peerages, are limited to delaying laws, not bills for a year. They cannot twice reject a measure passed by the elected House of Commons.

But Nazi hunters and many Commons members are distributed at the prospect of the Lords thwarting a bill passed by an overwhelming 348-123 vote in the House of Commons last December. Both Thatcher and Labour Party opposition leader Neil Kinnock supported it.

Canada leaders fail to resolve impasse

Differences over Meech Lake accord on Quebec

HULL, Quebec, June 4, (Reuters): Canada's leaders failed to resolve a dangerous constitutional impasse at a four-hour meeting yesterday and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said they would resume their efforts tomorrow.

The prime minister, who had called the meeting warning that Canada's future was at stake, said he and the 10 provincial premiers would meet again at midday tomorrow.

Mulroney summoned the premiers to resolve their differences over a constitutional accord which, unless ratified by all 10 provincial leg-

islatures, threatens to alienate the French-speaking province of Quebec and break up the country.

"It was a good meeting, it was a constructive and helpful meeting," a grave Mulroney told reporters after emerging from a four-hour dinner at the Museum of Civilization across the Ottawa river from the capital.

"Everyone participated actively and vigorously, and we're all better acquainted with each other's positions," he said.

But it was evident the premiers had not substantially narrowed their differences over the Meech Lake accord, a constitutional amendment

that recognises Quebec's status as a distinct society and shifts more powers to the provinces.

"If we leave Ottawa without a solution, the consequences will be very serious," said Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa. He has not said what Quebec would do if the accord is rejected, but has hinted that its failure could prompt the French-speaking province to quit the 123-year-old confederation.

"It's serious, it's deep," said Premier Grant Devine from the western province of Saskatchewan. "Everyone believes the nation comes first, but whatever we do has to be fair to every part of the country."

After the latest talks, the premiers will have to take the issue back home to put any decisions before their provincial assemblies.

Legislatures in three English-speaking Canadian provinces — New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Manitoba — have refused to ratify the accord, named after the Quebec lake at which it was drafted.

Some of the holdout premiers oppose a measure in the accord that would give every province a veto over senate reform. Others worry the measure recognising Quebec as a distinct society might conflict with the charter of rights. Canada's bill of rights for individuals.

Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon told reporters on his way into the dinner that his province would not ratify the accord as it stands.

But Bourassa remained adamant after the dinner that there was not enough time to tinker with the accord, given the June 23 deadline for its ratification.

He said Quebec made many concessions to get the accord signed three years ago by Mulroney and all of the provincial premiers then in office.

Earlier David Peterson, the premier of Ontario, Canada's most populous province, tried to dispel the idea that the success of the accord hinged on Sunday's dinner.

"I don't expect (the impasse) to be resolved tonight, but I expect it to be resolved over the next two or three days," he told the crowd waiting outside the museum, some of them waving placards saying "I love Canada."



Carry away dead

Firemen and rescue people carry away the coffin of one of the dead, killed in the coach accident which occurred on the motorway south of Paris, near Auxerre June 3. Eleven British tourists were killed and 22 seriously injured when their double-decker coach blew one tyre and went careening off the motorway. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sex on credit in US

Transactions disguised

WASHINGTON, June 4, (Reuters): Sex on credit has turned into a booming industry in the United States, where "charge it" is the average consumer's daily battle cry.

A portable credit card machine has become a standard tool of the trade for many prostitutes. "All major credit cards accepted" is a routine phrase in advertisements by "Escort Services" across the country.

Scores of "party hotlines" bill sexually explicit conversations to credit cards. Pornographic books, videotapes, on sex aids are all available on credit. Almost as a matter of routine, establishments selling sexual services offer to disguise their transactions as something else, allowing clients to pass off the bill as business expense.

"The practice is widespread," said Maurice Dettmer, a Florida-based Internal Revenue Service (IRS) investigator who led a two-year operation to uncover a world where executives charged \$1,000 sex sessions on corporate credit cards.

"Corporations lose millions of dollars in fraudulent expense claims," he said. "Apart from that, schemes to 'launder' credit card vouchers are used for tax evasion on a grand scale."

Banks are reluctant to open credit card accounts for Escort Services, many of which operate under names which leave little to the imagination.

"Even the most overworked corporate accountant would balk at an expense claim voucher that said 'blondes, blondes, blondes' or 'midnight dreams'," said an official involved in the IRS undercover operation. "And no one would dare put it on an income tax form as a deductible expense."

Instead, fraudulent companies set up to disguise the nature of credit card charges produce vouchers with innocent sounding names, and descriptions such as conference catering, plumbing and repairs or office supplies.

In one case in Washington last year a credit card laundered provided charge slips for funeral services and urns.

One of the most extensive investigations to date into phony receipts for sex began in Tampa, Florida, in 1988 and ended in April when IRS agents raided Escort Services in 12 states.

"We had hundreds of agents in those raids," said Dettmer, chief of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division. "They carried away boxes of documents, computer discs, account ledgers and other documents."

They netted more than 25,000 phony credit card slips — almost all issued by IRS investigators and Florida police agents running a huge "Sting" operation.

Two fake companies, Sunset Enterprises and Timac, sent letters offering credit card laundering services to Escort Services and massage parlours advertising in newspapers and the yellow pages.

The agents then followed the standard practice of the credit card laundering industry.

Escort Services would send their charge slips to Sunset Enterprises or Timac, both based in Tampa, Florida. The Sting companies then made up slips in their own names and sent them to the banks where they maintained credit card accounts. The banks credited Sunset or Timac which in turn paid the Escort Services by cheque — minus processing fees of between 13 and 18 per cent.

"It was a big operation," Dettmer told Reuters. "But it was only the tip of the iceberg. This sort of thing is going on in every city. It is nation-wide, probably world-wide. The profits of this underground tax-free economy are tremendous."

The joint IRS-Florida police operation covered the top end of the market: the average night of passion charged on credit ran to around \$800. One customer spent \$19,000 in two days.

Fujimori calls for new currency on par with dollar

LIMA, June 4, (Reuters): Peruvian presidential candidate Alberto Fujimori said yesterday he would create a new currency pegged to the dollar if he won elections a week away.

"We will create a new currency which will be on par with the American dollar," said Fujimori, a centrist and son of Japanese immigrants, in a televised debate with his centre-right rival, novelist Mario Vargas Llosa.

The debate, the first of its kind in Peruvian history, could give Vargas Llosa his last chance to turn around Fujimori's slim lead in opinion polls before Sunday's elections,

political analysts said.

Fujimori said creation of the new currency would be the centrepiece of his plan to halt inflation, which has reached a record 2,000 per cent in the past year.

The int'l currency has lost more than 25 per cent of its value in the past two weeks on the black market.

Vargas Llosa, candidate for the centre-right Democratic Front Coalition, said he would use free-market mechanisms to slow inflation and would shun state intervention.

Vargas Llosa said he would abolish food subsidies and overhaul the country's tax sys-

tem.

Fujimori has accused his rival Vargas Llosa of being unfit to lead Peru's battle against drug-trafficking because he smoked marijuana as a teenager.

In a bitter televised debate yesterday, Fujimori lashed out at Vargas Llosa, a novelist, for his personal conduct and plans to apply free-market capitalism to cure Peru's economic ills.

Pointing at his rival, Fujimori referred to an interview in a Lima magazine three years ago in which Vargas Llosa said he had smoked marijuana as a 14-year-old.

Belfast gunmen kill a Catholic

BELFAST, June 4, (AP): Masked gunmen killed a Roman Catholic man in his home early today and wounded two of his sons, police said, arousing fears of a new outbreak of sectarian killings.

Sixty-year-old Patrick Boyle died instantly when the gunmen burst into his home near Portadown in county Armagh, 25 miles (40 kms) southwest of Belfast, police said.

One of the sons was severely wounded in the stomach and was in a serious condition in hospital, police said.

The two or three attackers escaped in a stolen van which was found abandoned about a mile (1.6 kms) from the family home.

The Social Democratic and Liberal Party, the main Catholic party in protestant dominated Northern Ireland, blamed the attack on Protestant extremists. Police said they knew of no motive for the attack.

More than 2,700 people have been killed since sectarian violence erupted in Northern Ireland in 1969.

In the past two weeks four people — two British soldiers and two Australian tourists — have been killed in attacks by the mainly Catholic Irish Republican army in the Netherlands, West Germany and England.

British police said today they had detained six men for questioning over recent attacks by Irish nationalist guerrillas in which two soldiers were killed.

Skinheads, police clash, 30 arrested

EAST BERLIN, June 4, (AP): Scores of Skinheads armed with baseball bats and sticks brawled with East Berlin police, and 30 people were arrested, the East German government news agency said today.

About 100 of the young right-wing radicals gathered around houses where they believed leftists lived, ignored a police order to leave and attacked the officers, ADN said.

One officer suffered a broken nose in the Saturday night clash and several radicals were injured, the agency said.

UN awards mark Environment Day

Thatcher, Ershad among 72 honoured

NAIROBI, June 4, (UPI): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, a tribal chief from the Amazon rainforest, President Hussain Mohammed Ershad of Bangladesh and the City Council of Erlangen in West Germany were among 72 recipients of "global 500" awards from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) given to mark World Environment Day tomorrow.

Unep also gave the prestigious Sasakawa international environment prize posthumously to Francisco "Chico" Mendes Filho for his fight to preserve the Amazon rainforest.

Mendes, Secretary of a Rubber-Tappers Union in Brazil, fought from 1975 until his assassination by his opponents in 1987, to stop government-backed ranchers cutting down or burning the forest. He was to be honoured at a special ceremony in Mexico tomorrow.

Thatcher received her award, Nairobi-based Unep said, because she had made environmental issues prominent in the agenda of the British government.

"In major policy speeches in 1988, she strongly advocated increased international attention to, and action against, the threat of climatic changes caused by the global warming effect on the atmospheric build-up of 'greenhouse gases,'" it said.

Global warming theory, now widely accepted, holds that big man-made increases in the proportion of gases such as carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere could lead in the next century to much higher temperatures world-wide. Greenhouse gases are so called because they trap the sun's heat beneath a layer of a gas in the upper atmosphere.

Global warming would be ecologically disastrous, raising sea levels and destroying crop patterns, the theory goes.

Chief Paulinho Paikan, who for years has caught the international imagination with his simple appeals for an end to destruction of the Amazon rainforest, was also honoured in the awards. Paikan and his fellow elders of Brazil's Kayapo tribe campaign in particular against the building of hydro-electric dams in the forest.

Rainforests, with their millions of square miles of carbon dioxide-absorbing trees, are seen by ecologists as vital counterbalances to global warming.

President Ershad received an award for his environmental leadership in declaring 1990 the "year of environment" in Bangladesh and the "decade of environment" in Bangladesh.



Imelda Marcos

Imelda leaves hospital

'Much better'

NEW YORK, June 4, (UPI): Former Philippines first lady Imelda Marcos left a hospital yesterday, saying she felt "much better" three days following her collapse during her racketeering trial with stomach pains and bleeding from the mouth.

Wearing a black dress covered with a black shawl, Imelda was brought out of New York hospital-Cornell University Medical Centre on the upper east side in a wheelchair shortly before noon.

A short distance from her black Mercedes sedan, the heavily made-up Imelda stood up from the wheelchair and walked slowly to the car.

"I feel much better," she whispered as she sat in the back seat of the sedan.

Imelda, 60, collapsed on Thursday during her racketeering trial in US district court in Manhattan, spitting up blood before she was carried from the courtroom.

On a stretcher. Her face pale and eyes closed, she was loaded into an ambulance with an oxygen mask over her mouth.

Imelda is being tried on charges that she and her late husband, former Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos, conspired to buy New York real estate, art and jewellery worth \$222 million stolen from their homeland.

After Imelda's collapse, judge John Keenan recessed her trial until tomorrow.

Doctors diagnosed Imelda as suffering from erosive gastritis, an acid-related stomach condition that is not life-threatening, said Mary Clalione, a spokeswoman for New York hospital-Cornell University medical centre.

Erosive gastritis, in which the stomach lining is eroded, requires intravenous medication to suppress production of acid.

Killer killed

Greetings to mama

CARSON CITY, Nevada, June 4, (AP): Convicted killer Thomas Baal was put to death by injection yesterday after sending a greeting to his parents who tried to block the execution he said he wanted.

Baal, 26, was pronounced dead nine minutes after a mixture of three lethal drugs was pumped through tubes into his arms, as he lay strapped on a table in the Nevada state prison.

Warden Pete Demosthenes said Baal's last words were "Send my love to my mama and my papa." State prison director Ron Angelone added that Baal told him to tell his parents, "Jesus was taking him home and he was not scared."

Baal was placed on the table 25 minutes before the injection started. He looked through viewing windows at the 24 witnesses and spoke to one of them, Clark county deputy district attorney Dan Seaton.

Seaton prosecuted Baal for the knifing death of bus driver Frances Mayes in a 1988 robbery in Las Vegas. He said he couldn't tell what Baal was saying as he slowly mouthed a few words.

After that, the condemned man appeared to talk to himself and then closed his eyes as the injections started.

On his last night, spent in a cell next to the death chamber, Baal talked with a prison chaplain and Baal made several phone calls, prison spokesman Glen Whorton said, adding that he didn't know who he had contacted.

Andy Anderson of Reno, an opponent of capital punishment, protested the execution by kneeling on the hood of his car outside the prison. Three others joined the modest protest.

The execution came 10 hours after the US Supreme Court voted 5-4 to erase a federal appeals court ruling blocking the execution.

The high court threw out a stay granted Saturday by an appeals court that had been granted at the request of Edwin and Doris Baal, over their son's objections.

Death penalty system faulty

NEW YORK, June 4, (AP): Many defence lawyers who handle death penalty cases in the south are inexperienced in such cases, underpaid and more likely than their peers to get into professional trouble, a law publication reported yesterday.

The National Law Journal studied nearly 100 death penalty cases and concluded that the way poor defendants are assigned lawyers is flawed. The cases studied were in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Americans oppose influx: US citizens generally oppose increased immigration and tend to be more worried that the United States faces overpopulation problems than a shortage of skilled workers, a poll showed Monday.

The Roper organisation interviewed 1,000 adults nationwide from April 20 to May 2 for the study commissioned by the Federation for American Immigration Reform. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Many economists predict the United States will face labour shortages in the 1990s because of the low birthrate that followed the "baby boom" generation, and President George Bush's council of economic advisers has suggested the administration consider policies that would bring more skilled workers into the country. (UPI)

Eisenhower kin unveils plaque: The planning that preceded the D-day invasion was recalled Monday as the son of the late US President Dwight D Eisenhower unveiled a plaque honouring the World War II general at his former headquarters. "For me, these days here at Norfolk house were the hardest days of all," Nato commander Gen John R Galvin said at the morning ceremony.

The unveiling of the plaque by John Eisenhower was the first of several ceremonies on a "journey to victory" organised by the US department of defence to celebrate 100th anniversary of Eisenhower's birth. (AP)

Stuffed animal kills tiger: A rare white Bengal tiger drowned in a pool at Busch gardens after suffering severe stomach pains caused by a small stuffed animal it ate three to six weeks ago, park officials said.

The toy animal had lodged itself in the upper portion of the 5-foot (1.5 m), 2-year-old male tiger's intestines, said park spokesman David Conrad. Two gall stones formed next to the toy, further blocking digestion and creating what must have been painful stomach attacks, Conrad said.

About 3:15 pm Sunday, the tiger, Mwelu, was swimming in a pool at the park and apparently suffered an attack of stomach pain and drowned, Conrad said. (UPI)

Proud to have spied: A Swiss woman freed from a South African jail after being convicted of high treason said she was proud to have spied for the Soviet Union to help fight against injustice in her adopted country.

"At the time, the Soviet Union was the only superpower to support the resistance against injustice in South Africa," Ruth Gerhardt told the Sonntags Zeitung weekly on Sunday. "We did the right thing." On May 22, South African President F W de Klerk ordered the release of Gerhardt, who was jailed for 10 years in 1983 for helping her husband pass military secrets to the Soviet Union. (Reuter)



Vigil in HK

A pro-democracy demonstrator weeps before a candle-lit vigil in Hong Kong in remembrance of those who were killed during the military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing a year ago. More than 70,000 Hong Kong people participated. (Reuter wirephoto)

Cuba seizes Japanese yacht: A \$8 million Japanese yacht was seized by Cuba for violating Havana's territorial waters, but the yacht's owners denied the charge and demanded the boat be returned, a spokesman for the owners said.

A Cuban patrol ship approached the 145-foot luxury yacht Belesbat Queen Saturday off the coast of Cuban, fired three shots without explanation and indicated the charter vessel should follow it to Cuba, the ship's captain, Ian McCombe, told United Press International before he was detained by Cuban authorities.

"They (Cuban authorities) insist the boat entered into Cuban territory without permission," said Bungo Shimada, managing director of Island Future Corp. of Kobe, Japan, the yacht's owner. "We insist we did not have any intention to enter and actually we were out of the territory."

Shimada said a Cuban diplomat in Tokyo informed him the ship was seized for entering Cuban waters without permission.

Tornado-hit midwestern residents pick through the debris

PETERSBURG, Indiana, June 4, (AP): Residents picked through the debris yesterday from a tornado that ripped through Petersburg killing six and leaving hundreds homeless in this midwest town.

Across Indiana officials reported eight dead and at least 150 people injured Saturday night in the state's worst tornado outbreak since 1974.

The storms left 24 cities in 15 counties with significant damage. Officials tracked about 50 tornado touchdowns during a four-hour period.

Meanwhile, officials in the neighbouring state of Illinois toured two areas where a tornado destroyed or damaged scores of houses and killed one woman.

A 10-year-old boy drowned in a storm-swollen river in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and twisters or tornado-force winds downed trees, knocked out power and damaged homes and businesses from Kansas to Michigan and Ohio. In Arkansas, thunderstorms dumped heavy rain, causing flash flooding that closed roads.

Indiana Governor Evan Bayh toured Petersburg and Bedford, the southern Indiana communities hardest hit by the twisters, and viewed other damage from the air yesterday.

At least 150 homes and 18 businesses in Petersburg were destroyed and 120 homes and 58 businesses were damaged when the storm ripped a five-mile path through town, said Al Miller, field operations co-ordinator for the state emergency management agency.

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INTERNATIONAL

Burmese opposition triumphs in polls

RANGOON, June 4, (Reuters): Leaders of Burma's main opposition party, victorious at last week's election but awaiting official announcement of their landslide win, met today to hammer out an agenda for possible talks with the army government about transferring power.

Executive committee members of the National League for Democracy declined to give details of the meeting because they feared confrontation with the army.

"The situation is very delicate and we have to tread very carefully," said Khin Maung Swe after the meeting.

The army, which held the election after ruling this impoverished country under strict martial law for the past 20 months, has promised to hand over power only after a constitution is passed by the new assembly.

The Democracy League, its top leaders detained last year and its candidates harassed by the army during the campaign, has shunned public attention and held no public rallies since the May 27 elections.

League spokesman Kyi Maung left today's meeting early waving journalists politely away with an umbrella.

The official media have so far announced results in one third of the 485 constituencies contested. They have the Democracy League winning 147 out of 158 seats. League officials said today they had won at least 391 seats.

Government officials said because of poor communications and monsoon rains the results might take another two weeks to compile.

In 1988 Burmese took to the streets to press for democracy, briefly triumphed, then were brutally crushed by army gunfire. The 10 pm to 4 am curfew is a nightly reminder today that the military still holds power.

And already the Junta, led by Gen. Saw Maung, has said the army won't tolerate "threats to national unity," a vague phrase that in the past has been used to justify crushing dissent.

The tense political scene is complicated by economic malaise and ethnic insurgencies, which could be interested as threatening national unity.

And within the league, relatively inexperienced young radicals are vying for control with a more moderate senior faction. Another flash point could prove to be Aung San Suu Kyi, the dynamic opposition leader.

Just as in the Philippine's the "people power" revolution united behind Corason Aquino, much of the league's popularity comes from Ms Suu Kyi, who led Burmese in the 1988 uprising.

The 44-year-old former housewife and academic, however, was barred from participating in the vote and remains under house arrest, accused of subversion. Officials allege she has links to insurgent groups and have indicated she won't be freed anytime soon.

The military barred other opposition leaders from participating in the vote and imprisoned hundreds of league members, the opposition has said.

Massive march in Hong Kong on first anniversary of pro-democracy drive



An estimated 1,000 students hold protest rally on the campus of Beijing University early morning June 4. (Reuters wirephoto)



A policeman swiftly approaches a Buddhist monk praying at the Gate of Heavenly Peace by Beijing's Tiananmen Square June 4. (Reuters wirephoto)



Pro-democracy activists sing as they march 50,000 strong in Hong Kong June 3. The placards around their necks carry reminders of the Beijing massacres of June 4 last year. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rallies around world mark crackdown in Beijing

WASHINGTON, June 4, (UPI): Thousands of people around the world prayed and hoisted banners through the streets in commemoration of pro-democracy protesters killed by the Chinese army in and around Tiananmen Square one year ago.

Between 50,000 and 100,000 protesters marched 2 miles (3 km) through Hong Kong's business district chanting slogans urging democracy in China. The demonstrators also waved banners in Chinese calling for the resignation of Chinese Premier Li Peng and for the release of protesters arrested in student roundups after the Tiananmen killings.

Many of the Hong Kong protesters wore white, the Chinese colour for mourning, as they marched toward a mass rally beside the headquarters of China's Xinhua news agency, Beijing's unofficial embassy in the British colony.

But in China, the first anniversary of the bloody demise of pro-democracy movement passed today with heavy security preventing all but a smattering of protesters.

Tiananmen Square, the centre of last year's seven-week drive for democratic reform, was closed for the fourth straight day, surrounded by heavily armed paramilitary police.

In the United States, rallies occurred yesterday in major cities such as Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Seattle and smaller towns such as Annapolis, Pennsylvania, to mark the first anniversary of the massacre.

In Australia, thousands rallied in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide, reading poetry, giving theatrical performances, and holding all-night vigils outside Chinese diplomatic offices.

In Sydney, some 7,000 assembled in town hall square yesterday to pray for the hundreds and perhaps thousands of Chinese students who died.

More than 10,000 mainland China students who were in Australia when the massacre took place are still on extended visas.

About 1,000 people rallied in London, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported. The BBC said the demonstrators planned to hand the Chinese embassy a petition calling on Beijing to release all political prisoners. A similar rally was held in Manchester, 200 miles (320 km) to the north, the BBC said.

About 30 people marched yesterday from Boston's city hall to a memorial in the city's Chinatown section to honour Wang Weilin, the 19-year-old Beijing worker who stood up to Chinese army tanks as they rolled into the square last year.

Guo Xiao Bing, 23, of Beijing, read an elegy written by two men who survived the massacre, and urged the marchers to keep the Chinese students' efforts in support of democracy alive in mind and spirit.

In Seattle, dozens of demonstrators marched through the city's international district carrying poster-size photographs of Wang carrying a tank. Saturday night, a candlelight vigil honouring the students was held on the Seattle campus of the University of Washington.

In Atlanta, the Atlanta Association for Democracy in China, formed shortly after the Tiananmen Square crackdown, held a commemoration in downtown Woodruff Park.

Local college students built a replica of the "Goddess of Democracy" statue that Chinese students displayed in Tiananmen Square a year ago.

In Los Angeles, Chinese expatriates and other supporters of the "democracy movement" protested outside the Chinese consulate.

In Chicago, hundreds of Chinese students marched by China's consulate and held an emotional memorial service at the University of Chicago.

In New York, about 1,000 activists rallied outside the Chinese consulate, chanting "long live democracy."

Police cordon off Tiananmen

Emergency meeting to avert renewed student unrest

BEIJING, June 4, (Agencies): Police cordoned off Tiananmen Square again today and officials at Beijing University held an emergency meeting to avert renewed unrest after a defiant student protest on the first anniversary of China's crackdown on the pro-democracy movement.

The central square, the heart of last spring's six weeks of demonstrations for greater freedom, was closed for the fourth straight day for an official traffic safety event, with drivers practicing their skills for the Beijing Asian Games in September.

Police were on guard through the square, keeping pedestrians out of its north plaza and away from the monument to the People's Heroes, the obelisk that became the headquarters of the student demonstrators last spring.

An American television crew witnessed police hauling off a man from the square for an unknown offence, but otherwise the capital was reported calm throughout the day as authorities continued a heavier than usual security presence.

Officials at Beijing University held an emergency meeting during the day to discuss last night's incident in which more than 1,000 students staged a raucous on-campus demonstration and pelted paramilitary police with rocks and bottles from dormitory windows.

Sidelights

Seoul to send envoy: South Korea plans to send a special envoy to China to negotiate for full diplomatic relations, a newspaper reported today.

The daily Segye Times, quoting an unidentified high-ranking government official, said Seoul notified Beijing of its intention and is waiting for a reply.

The official said the government expects "a big change" in China's attitude toward South Korea after Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and South Korean President Roh Tae-woo meet in San Francisco today, the Seoul daily said.

Segye quoted the official as saying that "China shares South Korea's view there should be a big development in relations between the two countries through the Asian Games." The games are to be held in Beijing in September. (AP)

Bush eats Chinese style: On the first anniversary of the day tanks crushed the Chinese Tiananmen Square democracy movement, President George Bush ate at a Chinese restaurant and his National Security adviser Brent Scowcroft said there was nothing to be gained in contact with China.

Bush let the anniversary pass without official notice. Scowcroft, who went to Beijing on a secret mission and met Chinese leaders just shortly before the massacre, said there was no indication that official talks with China would be useful.

"Our policy is right now, until they make some additional moves, that there is nothing to be gained by high-level dialogue," Scowcroft said in a US television interview. (Reuters)

Praying at Tiananmen Square: Lightning cast an eerie pallor over Tiananmen Square at the moment plainclothes police snatched a lone mourner from the curb where he stood in silent prayer.

The man was one of many citizens who chose to defy official warnings to refrain from public dissent on the first anniversary of the army's deadly assault on peaceful pro-democracy protesters in the capital's central square.

Like the small acts of other Chinese who bicycled through the square in white mourning clothes or wept silently in the shadows, his protest was personal and unthreatening.

But Chinese security officials apparently thought his silent act warranted questioning and, perhaps, arrest. (UPI)

Police beat foreign newsmen: Armed Chinese police beat, detained and harassed foreign journalists in the worst brutality towards foreigners by the authorities since the military crackdown in Beijing a year ago. American correspondent David Holley of the Los Angeles Times and his Japanese wife Fumio were beaten by about 20 police armed with sub machine guns and pistols, witnesses said.

The police leapt from a convoy of jeeps near Beijing University, and pounced on Holley and his wife. They dragged her screaming and struggling toward some nearby trees.

The pair were bruised after the incident but neither was badly hurt. (Reuters)

Media protest brutality: Foreign journalists sent formal protests to the Foreign Ministry today, accusing security forces of beating and detaining them while they covered the tense first anniversary of China's crackdown on the democracy movement.

Accounts of serious brutality and detentions of reporters and technical crews were reported by Western news organisations through last night and today.

Many reporters said troops and paramilitary People's Armed Police brandished pistols and AK-47 assault rifles at traffic checkpoints in an attempt to seal much of Beijing's university district, long a hotbed of Chinese dissent.

US embassy officials were collecting reporters' accounts of brutality and said they would file an official protest with the Chinese government. (UPI)

Deng's remarks on unrest: China has accused Western media of twisting remarks made two weeks ago by senior leader Deng Xiaoping, saying his intention was to blame pro-democracy unrest last May and June on lack of political education.

A report issued in Hong Kong by the Beijing-owned China News Service (CNS) late yesterday said Deng's remarks, made to former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt on May 21, had been taken out of context by Western media.

Talks on Cambodia recessed

Khmer Rouge leader fails to appear at Tokyo meeting

TOKYO, June 4, (AP): Talks aimed at ending Cambodia's civil war recessed after only 25 minutes today when Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan failed to appear.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials awaited contact from the four warring factions on a resumption of the talks, but developments cast doubts over the outcome of the first peace conference held in Japan since World War II.

The Khmer Rouge, the largest group in the loose three-party guerrilla coalition fighting the government of Premier Hun Sen, had said it came to Tokyo ready to sign a ceasefire agreement to end the 11-year-old war.

But it said it could not participate in negotiations that it described as two-sided peace talks led by Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of the guerrilla coalition.

Hun Sen has refused to accept the Khmer Rouge as an equal negotiating partner in the talks or as an equal participant in any interim government, warning that the radical communists could return to power and repeat a reign of terror of the 1970s.

Previous Cambodian peace talks also have floundered over a future government role for the Khmer Rouge, blamed for the hundreds of thousands of Cambodian deaths during its rule from 1975 to 1979.



Sihanouk (second left) and Son Sann (left) take their seats at the round table conference with Hun Sen (far right) as Nakayama (second right) chairs Cambodian peace talks in Tokyo June 4. (Reuters wirephoto)

Foreign Ministry officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they could not comment on the reasons for the recess or the contents of the brief talks.

"Everything now is stagnant because of this question," one said. Asked about prospects for the talks' resumption, he said, "we don't know yet and we don't know yet what happened today."

After today's talks recessed, the participants continued to hold informal discussions in other rooms of the Akasaka Palace, the ministry officials said.

Afterward, the groups returned to their hotels and were holding consultations, guerrilla and Japanese officials said. But "nothing is decided," one Khmer Rouge official said.

Japan agreed to a suggestion from Thailand in April that it act as host to peace talks between Hun Sen and Sihanouk to maintain momentum in the Cambodian peace process. But Sihanouk said Khieu Samphan and conservative former premier Son Sann, leader of the other guerrilla faction, also should take part.



Sihanouk (right) is greeted by Kaifu June 4 as he arrives at a state guest house in Tokyo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Japanese officials prepared a circular negotiating table that they hoped would solve the problem of a negotiating format, with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama surrounded on one side by Hun Sen and three representatives of his government, and on the other by Sihanouk, Son Sann, Sihanouk's son Prince Ranariddh, and Khieu Samphan.

Campus sources said they did not know the outcome of the meeting. There was no word on whether any students had been detained for the protest, and both the Beijing public security bureau and the university foreign affairs office refused to answer inquiries.

Beijing's restive campuses, where the student-led protests for democracy erupted last spring until they were crushed by the army last June 3-4, were reported heavily covered by undercover police.

In an editorial in today's People's Daily, the official Communist Party newspaper, the government acknowledged the anniversary and warned that "stability is above everything."

"This is a common understanding in China after experiencing last year's political disturbances," the editorial said. "We should safeguard security just like safeguarding our own lives."

But students at Beijing University, which has been a centre of the student movement, expressed surprise at the apparently spontaneous outburst of dissent, which defied stern official warnings.

"I never dreamed anyone would protest," one student said.

Western diplomats said the brazen demonstration reflected the depth of outrage over the hundreds of people killed when the army quelled the protests last June, but perhaps more indicated the anger among students at their continued lack of opportunity.

They cited new restrictions the government has imposed during the past year on students, including ordering them to work for several years before continuing graduate studies, intensifying political indoctrination, tightening overseas study and sending Beijing University's entire freshman class to military training.

"Many of these kids feel like they have no future," one diplomat said.

The student protest was the first major disturbance since the crackdown, and came despite the biggest police show of force since martial law was lifted in Beijing in January.

At about midnight on Sunday, hundreds of students hurled bottles from dormitory windows in a satire against China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping whose last name rhymes with the Chinese for "little bottle."

Li Lu himself went into hiding after escaping to the West. Rushdie recalled the collapse of communist rule in Eastern Europe last year and said this weekend's anniversary of the crackdown on the pro-democracy students in Beijing was a "time to remember that 1989 was a year not only of miracles but of horrors as well."

Li's book, published in London by Macmillan, tells of his boyhood during China's Cultural Revolution.

Rushdie said in his review: "No doubt, in time, there will be calmer, less hurried responses to the appalling events of last year in Beijing. No doubt other survivors will emerge to tell us their stories."

Rushdie reviewed the book on Tiananmen Square in Eastern Europe last year and said this weekend's anniversary of the crackdown on the pro-democracy students in Beijing was a "time to remember that 1989 was a year not only of miracles but of horrors as well."

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A cut-out of the Goddess of Democracy stands among the crowd during a mass demonstration June 3 to mourn those who were killed in last year's demonstrations. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

One-man snake-pit show: A 25-year-old Sydney man plans to spend the next two weeks with companions that most people would consider unwelcome — five of the world's deadliest snakes.

Herpetologists David Williams isn't worried about his stint as a one-man snake-pit show.

"Snakes don't want to bite people unless they have a reason to attack. If you tread on a snake or belt it on the head with a shovel, it thinks it has a good reason to attack," he said Monday after entering the special 1.5-metre-square (five-foot-square) glass cage.

He will be penned in with two eastern brown snakes and three Taipans for 12 hours a day to raise money for the flying doctor service. One Taipan alone has enough venom to kill 23 people.

US hopeful of Japan support: At the end of a weeklong visit, the leader of a US delegation seeking Japanese partnership in an \$8 billion high-energy physics project on Monday declared himself optimistic that Japan will agree.

W. Henson Moore, US deputy secretary of energy and head of the delegation promoting the Texas-based superconducting super collider project, told reporters: "Japan has an understanding of the need for basic research and an appreciation for large projects. And Japan, I believe, wants to give meaning to the agreement between President George Bush and Prime Minister Toshika Kaifu to enter into a global partnership. These things make me optimistic."

New source of koala disease: New research indicates that chlamydia, a disease potentially fatal to koalas, may be spread by their food as well as by sexual contact.

Chlamydia, which affects both humans and animals, can cause death, blindness and infertility in Koalas. About half of Australia's 400,000 koalas are believed to be infected with it.

Rushdie reviews book on Tiananmen Square

LONDON, June 4, (AP): Writer-in-hiding Salman Rushdie yesterday praised a Chinese student's account of the Tiananmen Square repression as an important testament to "beautiful and terrible" events.

Rushdie, condemned to death by Iranian religious leaders last year for alleged blasphemy of Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses," reviewed the book "Moving the Mountain" by Li Lu in the weekly Independent on Sunday.

Li Lu himself went into hiding after escaping to the West. Rushdie recalled the collapse of communist rule

Warsaw Pact dying

Major differences among allies

VIENNA, June 4, (Reuters): The Warsaw Pact, the seven-nation military alliance forged by Moscow to wage the cold war, appears to be mortally wounded if not already dead, Western and Eastern diplomats say.

"It ceases to exist like the Cheshire cat in Alice in Wonderland," Georgy Arbatov, a leading adviser to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said last month, adding: "But there are still some traces of the smile."

East German Disarmament and Defence Minister Rainer Eppelmann was more blunt. "The Hungarians have signalled that they want to leave the pact. The Czechoslovaks want to freeze the alliance. It's not quite clear what the Poles think," he said last month.

"It seems as though the Warsaw Pact is breaking up," Eppelmann, speaking at a ceremony marking the pact's 35th anniversary since it was formed in response to the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato), said a pact summit on June 7 would be vital in determining its future.

With the democratisation of East Europe over the past year, members of the pact, created and dominated by Moscow, are increasingly putting their own national interests before those of an alliance that many feel no longer has any real meaning.

Nowhere is the disintegration of the communist alliance more apparent than in Vienna, where Nato and the Warsaw Pact are negotiating big cuts on conventional forces in Europe.

What began as discussions between two blocs in

March last year have increasingly become talks between 23 different sovereign states, a leading East bloc delegate said.

A Western diplomat said: "At the start it was them and us. Now it is more and more becoming Moscow versus the West, or even Moscow versus the rest."

In recent weeks the Soviet Union has twice been forced to table its own proposals at the conventional forces in Europe (CFE) talks after failing to find a consensus among its allies.

One of the proposals concerned Moscow's plan to convert surplus tanks to civilian use, an idea that has found little favour among its nervous former allies, who fear these could be converted back to military capability.

There are also major differences among the pact allies on the question of verifying a new arms treaty with on-the-spot inspections of Nato states.

One senior Hungarian delegate told Reuters that while his country saw no danger from Nato countries such as Denmark and Spain, it could imagine a possible threat coming from the Soviet Union or Romania, which has a large Hungarian minority.

"Instead of uni-directional verification, we want an all-round verification system," the delegate said.

Hungary is pushing hardest for a break with the Warsaw Pact. Its new democratically-elected government has said it wants to open talks with Moscow on finishing what the rebel government tried to do in the 1956 uprising.

COPENHAGEN, June 4, (AP): Foreign ministers from 35 nations open an East-West human rights conference tomorrow hoping to rewrite the ground rules in Europe to protect ethnic minorities and guarantee the rule of law.

US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze are also in Copenhagen, and will meet to press ahead with talks on Germany's future.

The month-long human rights con-

ference is likely to produce a final document endorsing principles which just one year ago were out of reach. Free elections, pluralist politics, freedoms of speech, assembly and religion.

More radical proposals — a committee to mediate ethnic disputes and possibly a security force — are likely to meet resistance.

"It is still too early to say if we can find a consensus. But all governments now agree to move ahead" toward a human rights

declaration said Per Fergo, head of the host delegation.

"A part of the discussion about human rights also concerns security and respect for national minorities," said US delegation chief Max Kampelman. "We have to handle those problems together," he told a Danish newspaper.

The Copenhagen conference, the second of three on the human dimension is an outgrowth of the 1975 Helsinki final act. The Helsinki accord reduced tensions

in Europe and set minimum standards of behaviour by states toward their peoples. The final conference in the series will be in Moscow in 1992.

The 35 signatories of the Helsinki accords form the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe or CSCE. They are the United States, Canada and all European states except Albania — and even that bastion of Stalinist isolation now wants to join.

Soviets urged to stand by reforms

MOSCOW, June 4, (Reuters): President Mikhail Gorbachev, speaking on television yesterday from the United States, urged the Soviet people to be "courageous" and stand by his reforms.

Gorbachev also "directly" hit out at his radical critic Boris Yeltsin, in an interview recorded on Saturday after his talks with President George Bush.

"We should go through with this courageously, never give in to extremism and pay no attention to any kind of speculation and speculative appeals," Gorbachev said, speaking slowly and gravely. "I believe you understand increasingly that the most important thing now is not meetings, noise and declarations, not promises, but to get on with our policies," he added.

Soviet television viewers have seen Gorbachev celebrated and feted in the United States during the summit, but his popularity at home has plummeted because of empty shop shelves, fear of unemployment and ethnic conflicts.

Gorbachev did not name Yeltsin, whose election as president of the powerful Russian Federation last week dealt a major blow to Gorbachev's power, but his remarks clearly referred to the unrepentant politician.

Yeltsin has made outspoken attacks on the Kremlin's reforms, calls for the smashing of Communist Party privileges and openly supports rebel Lithuania's declaration of independence.

Referring to his talks with Bush at the Camp David, Maryland country retreat on Saturday, Gorbachev said: "I would describe what happened at Camp David as a big day."

"It would be wrong to say we have reached agreement on all matters... but still I believe that we adjusted our political clocks," he said.

"I found Americans well disposed towards us... it is probably the first time, although there have already been many meetings with leaders of the United States, that I was able to discuss all problems deeply and substantially," he said.

Gorbachev left Washington yesterday, stopping briefly in the American heartland of Minnesota, before going to California.

Gorbachev returns to Moscow on Tuesday from scenes of celebration in the United States to a harsh battle for political survival at home.

Government reform plans lie in tatters and public anger is mounting over fears of price rises.

US President George Bush's trade agreement with Gorbachev gives the Soviet president a free hand to continue the blockade against the secessionist Baltic republic, Lithuania's president said today.

Bush said yesterday at the end of his Washington summit meeting with Gorbachev that his conditional decision to grant Moscow trade benefits was linked to Soviet emigration, not Lithuania.

However, Lithuania President Vytautas Landsbergis said: "By this agreement, he's allowed to prolong the blockade against Lithuania."

Landsbergis spoke in an interview with the Voice of America, the US government radio station. Excerpts of the interview were released by the press office of the Lithuanian parliament in Vilnius, the capital of the republic.

Moscow slapped an embargo halting food and fuel supplies to Lithuania after the republic declared independence on March 11.

Plan to rewrite rules to protect ethnic minorities

East-West human rights meet today

Cheering throngs greet Gorby in San Francisco

Reagan meets Kremlin chief in California

SAN FRANCISCO, June 4, (Agencies): Mikhail Gorbachev wooed cheering throngs in the American heartland and plugged the Soviet Union as a place for capitalist investment en route to historic talks today with South Korea's president.

Gorbachev's trip already has yielded two dividends — pacts with Chevron Corp. and IBM Corp. and promises more after a lunch today with 150 captains of industry in oil, banking, food, entertainment, airlines, hotels, real estate and computers.

First on Gorbachev's California schedule was a breakfast with former president Ronald Reagan and the two men's wives at the home of the Soviet

consul general, where the Gorbachevs spend the night after flying in late yesterday from Minneapolis-St Paul.

Reagan and Gorbachev broke the ice in the cold war in their five summits. For Reagan, today's meeting marks one of his few moments back in the limelight since leaving office last year.

Gorbachev and his wife, Raisa, were welcomed to California late yesterday by Gov. George Deukmejian, who presented a letter to the Kremlin chief from the state's Armenian community conveying their hopes for the future of the Soviet republic of Armenia, where activists are seeking greater autonomy from central authority.



Gorbachev waves to onlookers while surrounded by security upon his arrival in Minneapolis June 3. (Reuters wirephoto)



Gorbachev is given a demonstration of nuclear safety technology by William Selden (left) with the use of a Cyber Computer in Bloomington June 3. (Reuters wirephoto)



Raisa walks through a drugstore for a closer look after stopping her motorcade in route, she bought some chewing gum and nuts before heading on her way. (Reuters wirephoto)

Summit Notebook

Raisa tours drug store: While her husband shopped for computers, Raisa Gorbachev was looking at the cosmetics counter of a drug store and asking questions about salaries and maternity leave.

"Are there any French perfumes in this store?" the wife of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev asked staff at the Snyder drug store in the American mid-west city of Minneapolis.

In the end, she spent only a few dollars on Macadamia nuts and three plastic figures containing chewing gum.

But first she had a good look around the cosmetic counter on what was her first shopping trip during a week-long visit to north America with her husband. (Reuters)

Tea with Watsons: Raisa Gorbachev shared tea with the Watson family yesterday, asking them about their family life and lingering to examine souvenirs collected by Lisa Watson during a 10-day trip to Moscow.

"I loved it. I want to go back," Watson, 13, said of the trip to Moscow, where she performed in a children's theatre company production of "Rembrandt Takes a Wife."

"I'm happy you said that, that you liked it," Mrs Gorbachev said through an interpreter.

Mrs Gorbachev spent about an hour with the family — three times as long as scheduled — asking questions about their home and family life.

Raisa, her interpreter, and the Watson family father Steven, mother Karen, daughters Lisa and Stephanie, 11, and sons Thomas, 7, and William, 6 — gathered around a large table for tea and cookies. (UPI)

Greetings to bone-marrow recipient: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev sent a get well

message to a pilot being treated in the United States after being exposed to radiation spewed from the Chernobyl nuclear plant.

Yury Osiypan, a member of the Soviet president's council and vice-president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, visited helicopter pilot Anatoly Grishchenko at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre. He said Grishchenko, who underwent a bone marrow transplant April 27, was looking well, and praised him as "our national hero." (AP)

Maxwell announces research venture: With Mikhail Gorbachev standing at his side, British publisher Robert Maxwell yesterday announced formation of an institute honouring the Soviet leader which will conduct research into global issues ranging from health to the environment.

Maxwell said he would contribute \$50 million to be matched by a like amount from the state of Minnesota for a "Gorbachev-Maxwell Institute of technology" in Minnesota.

Maxwell, speaking after a lunch for Gorbachev at the residence of Minnesota Governor Rudy Perpich, praised the Soviet leader for the "great services" he has rendered in ending the cold war. (Reuters)

Perfect candidate for the Senate: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev got the ultimate compliment yesterday for his filibustering of a meeting with congressmen who had hoped to pose sharp questions to him.

"He'd be a perfect candidate for the Senate," said Senate minority leader Bob Dole, a Kansas Republican.

Gorbachev had a long meeting with key Democrats and Republicans at the Soviet embassy on Saturday, and he did most of the talking. (Reuters)

Soviets plan military reform

MOSCOW, June 4, (Agencies): An exciting experiment will test the feasibility of a volunteer Soviet Army, a break with hundreds of years of Russian military tradition, Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov said yesterday.

Yazov revealed plans for the novel trial in the army newspaper Red Star after months of discussion over whether a military force numbering five million members makes sense in an area of decreasing military tension.

"The main thing here is to ensure that with the numerical reductions in the army and navy, the qualitative indicators of their battle potential do not worsen," he said.

The announcement of the modest experiment comes after more than two years of criticism in Soviet newspapers and magazines about the laxing and brutality in the conscript army that anti-military activists say often ends in the death of recruits.

Yazov said the recruitment experiment to be phased in over the next few years is part of an overall military reform that spells smaller defence expenditures.

This year, he said, the military budget will drop by 8.2 per cent from \$123 billion (77.3 billion roubles) to \$113 billion (70.9 billion roubles). Western estimates give higher figures for defence spending, claiming military costs are hidden in the budgets of civilian ministries.

Soviet military expenditures are currently estimated at 15 per cent of the country's gross national product, much higher than in the US.

Under the experiment to begin in 1991, the navy will try contract recruitment, which will later be introduced in other branches, Yazov said. Recruits, he said, will be free to choose between a traditional two-year service or three years under contract.

Unlike a draftee's current pay of \$12 (8 roubles) a month for cigarettes and candy, three-year volunteers under contract would get \$240 (150 roubles) a month — or about 20 times as much.

Two ICRC delegates missing

GENEVA, June 4, (AP): Two delegates of the all-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross were listed by the ICRC yesterday as missing in war-torn Mozambique where a government radio reported they were kidnapped by rebels.

Brigitte Kehrer, 37, and Thierry Tribolet, 31, failed to return from a medical mission in the province of Sambesia on Friday morning, according to ICRC spokesman Paul-Henri Morard. He said he was unable to confirm a report by Radio Mozambique that they were abducted by Renamo guerrillas.

Morard said Geneva headquarters also had no confirmation of the radio report that their burned out car was found in the region.



Open market

A young Romanian displays his goods including Turkish-made T-shirts, jeans, skirts and soap on his car in an open market in Bucharest June 3, where Romanians go shopping even for second-hand cars every Sunday. Most Romanians travel to Turkey not only for tourism but also to earn money by selling goods which they bring to Romania. (Reuters wirephoto)

Romanians get new apartments

Crammed flats left behind

BUCHAREST, June 4, (Reuters): Aurelia Brener has only one complaint about her spacious new home — the view from the balcony.

"I could draw a curtain in front of it. When I look in that direction I seem to see him," she said.

"Him" is Nicolae Ceausescu and from his fifth-floor balcony Brener has a view of the towering White Palace of the republic, built by the executed Romanian dictator for his own glorification.

Since December's bloody uprising, hundreds of ordinary Romanians have left cramped, run-down flats for brand new apartments like Brener's on the paved, tree-lined boulevard that leads to the 450-room palace.

The apartments, in eight-storey blocks the lower two floors of which house shops fronted with travertine marble, were ready two years ago for Ceausescu's communist elite.

The flats stayed empty while an army of workers toiled on the still unfinished palace, conceived as the seat of government and now expected to be turned into a conference centre.

Today, their stone balconies are a colourful mosaic of washing hung out to dry by Romanians whom Ceausescu starved of food, heat and light to fund his mammoth building project.

"We would never have had a chance to live here before," said Brener, 50, a hospital administrator who moved in in February with her retired husband, their son and daughter-in-law and the family poodle who had gone to someone big in the Securitate (secret police) or maybe a junior minister.

According to Brener, Romania's post-revolutionary National Salvation Front (NSF) government shared the flats among Bucharest enterprises to allocate to staff on the basis of need.

The city is short of 50,000 apartments. Her family swapped a dingy 40 square metre (33 square yards) flat on the outskirts of the capital for one almost double the size with five rooms and two bathrooms.

Valentin Ceausescu, 42, and Zoe Ceausescu, 39, were arrested during last December's uprising, but the charges against them were not announced.

Valentin, a physicist, and Zoe, a mathematician, played no

major role in the regime, which was dominated by Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena.

But Valentin and Zoe benefited, with other family members, from more than \$8 million in state funds, a military prosecutor said.

"The dictators and their family did not pay anything for what they consumed for more than 20 years, so arresting papers were made out for undermining the national economy," he said.

Ceausescu kids charged

BUCHAREST, June 4, (Reuters): The eldest son and daughter of executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu could face charges of undermining Romania's economy through the family's high living, a state prosecutor said.

Valentin Ceausescu, 42, and Zoe Ceausescu, 39, were arrested during last December's uprising, but the charges against them were not announced.

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"The dictators and their family did not pay anything for what they consumed for more than 20 years, so arresting papers were made out for undermining the national economy," he said.

Valentin, a physicist, and Zoe, a mathematician, played no

US embassy workers, Liberians, missionaries and families crowd airport to escape tribal war

MONROVIA, June 4, (AP): Hundreds of Liberians and more than 50 US embassy workers, missionaries and their families crowded an airport today to escape the tribal war that has engulfed this West African nation.

In the city, people of the Mandingo and Krahn tribes loyal to President Samuel Doe piled their belongings into taxis, trucks and buses, fleeing reprisals by rebels threatening to attack the capital.

The rebels, led by Charles Taylor, are mostly members of the Gio and Mano tribes and invaded the West African country of 2.5 million people from

the Ivory Coast about five months ago.

The State Department last week ordered all non-essential US government personnel and their families to leave immediately, and US warships were expected off the coast today or tomorrow to help evacuate Americans.

There has been no sign of a rebel attack on the city, and government forces have made no visible efforts to defend it. But many people weren't taking any chances.

"If they come, they'll massacre us. So we're going," said a father of four children as he stacked a

mattress onto the back of a truck. He and two other Mandingo families were heading for Sierra Leone. Taxi drivers said the exodus has caused a traffic jam at the border.

At Springs Payne airfield, about 5 miles (8 kilometres) from the city centre, about 50 Americans, 20 South Koreans and a few British and Canadians awaited a chartered flight to take them to Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone.

About 20 Baptist and Protestant missionaries and their children were leaving aboard a Boeing 777 hired from Air Guinea.

A woman among US embassy families said she didn't want to leave but was told she had no choice because of Thursday's evacuation order for non-essential personnel. Previous evacuations of the embassy, which had a staff of 200 with about 450 family members, have been voluntary.

Liberians said they were cheered by the 2,000 marines being sent in case the 2,000 remaining US citizens and other nationals have to be evacuated. Last month, about 6,000 were in the country but most chose to leave as the fighting worsened, US embassy officials said.

31 people die in boat accident

MAPUTO, Mozambique, June 4, (AP): At least 31 people died in a boat accident while returning from visiting a witch doctor, Mozambique's news agency Aina, reported today.

Thirty people were known to have survived when the over-crowded boat sank on Saturday in the bay of Pemba, off the coast of northern Mozambique. Aina said the accident was the worst in the bay since 1975.

Tutu calls for an independent Palestinian state

MIDDLETOWN, Connecticut, June 4. (UPI): South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu called yesterday for an independent Palestinian state, saying "We deplore injustice everywhere we encounter it."

Tutu, speaking at Wesleyan University's 158th commencement, said he believed Israel had a right to exist as an

independent state but also believed there should be an independent Palestinian state.

He cited the example of his own country's recent thaw in relations between the white South African government and the once-outlawed African National Congress.

"We deplore injustice everywhere

that we encounter it," said Tutu, who had been criticised by some Jewish students and faculty at Wesleyan for making comments they had considered anti-Israel.

"We deplore violence everywhere, where we encounter it, and we pray fervently that it will be possible for negotiations to take place between the

government of Israel and the Palestinians through spokespersons that they identify as representatives of the aspirations of the Palestinians," Tutu said.

"I say, and I say very strongly, Israel has a right to exist as a sovereign, independent state whose territorial integrity and security must be guaranteed by all nations," he said.

"Equally, I believe that the Middle East issue will not go away until the cries of Palestinians for an independent, sovereign state are heard," Tutu said.

Tutu received an honorary divinity degree from Wesleyan where he last spoke in March 1984, shortly after he was named the first black Anglican

Bishop of Johannesburg and several months before winning the Nobel Peace prize.

Tutu's visit followed several months of controversy on the Wesleyan campus, including firebombings of the president's office and a boathouse and the appearance of graffiti with racial slurs.

Arming up for war

White extremists threaten SA reforms

JOHANNESBURG, June 4. (AP): Right-wing whites are organising and arming in a desperate effort to stop the government from sharing power with the black majority.

Their leaders are enraged by President F.W. de Klerk's plans to end apartheid and say they will never accept a black government. Both white and black leaders fear the right wing will provoke violence that could endanger efforts to find a peaceful solution.

While the pro-apartheid Conservative Party tries to force an election and unseat De Klerk, more radical groups are arming for war.

Extremists have raided government armouries for guns, neo-Nazis are organising military units and "White Wolf" groups have attacked blacks.

"We are preparing ourselves to meet the revolution that Mr Mandela's killers will start; it will be a holy war," extreme right-wing leader Eugene Terreblanche said in an interview, referring to black leader Nelson Mandela.

On May 26, about 50,000 whites attended a Conservative Party rally in Pretoria to demand De Klerk's ouster. The crowd cheered wildly when party leader Andries Treurnicht said whites never would surrender political control.

"We shall not accept the threatened destruction of our nation's freedom, but will fight to restore that which has already been unjustly given away," Treurnicht declared.

De Klerk said the tactics could start a war between whites.

"The Conservative Party's threats of revolt and resistance are irresponsible, undemocratic and dangerous," he said two days after the rally.

Officials say a few hundred well-armed extremists with supporters in the security services could launch a devastating terrorist campaign and attacks on blacks or government leaders could threaten fragile peace negotiations.

"There is going to be violence," said a security official, who would not let his name be used. "The question is how much."

Mandela and other black leaders share the government's concern.

"Unless the state acts immediately to stop the recent wave of right-wing attacks on black people, the whole peace process in this country could be in jeopardy," said the New Nation newspaper, which supports Mandela's African National Congress, the main black opposition group.

Many of South Africa's 5 million whites oppose plans to dismantle apartheid, the official policy of race segregation that preserves their privileges and denies rights to the 28 million blacks.

Latest: The South African government promised today it would not force whites-only state schools to accept black pupils, despite its pledge to end apartheid.

"It is really a pity that the impression is being created on a number of points that school communities would be forced to open their doors to all groups, or that they had to privatise," said Piet Claes, minister in charge of white education.

Mandela starts 13-nation tour

Stress sanctions

GABORONE, June 4. (Reuters): South African black nationalist Nelson Mandela flew into Botswana today to an enthusiastic welcome at the start of his biggest foreign tour since being released from jail in February.

Mandela, deputy president of the anti-apartheid African National Congress (ANC), and his wife Winnie were greeted by President Quett Masire, traditional dancers and about 1,000 cheering people.

"I want to assure you how happy I am to be among you," Mandela told the crowd carrying banners reading peace (blessings) and amandla (power).

Earlier, in Johannesburg, the ANC leader told reporters as he left South Africa he would campaign against the lifting of international economic sanctions against his racially-segregated country.

"My message overseas will remain the same...sanctions will be uppermost in the course of the meetings," he said, adding:

"On this visit we intend to inform Europe and the United States and Africa of the political situation in South Africa and of any developments which we expect."

The ANC, the main nationalist group seeking black majority rule, has started talks with the government to try to work out a constitution for a post-apartheid South Africa.

Before full negotiations can start, it is demanding several reforms, including the lifting of a national state of emergency imposed four years ago to clamp down on black unrest.

For much of his trip to the 13 countries including France, Switzerland, Britain, Ireland, Canada and the United States, Mandela will be following the route traced by President F.W. de Klerk last month in the longest and most successful foreign tour by a South African leader since World War Two.

De Klerk urged leaders of the 12-Nation European Economic Community to review their anti-apartheid policies thoroughly at



Mandela shown in a file photo addressing a rally in Atteridgeville, South Africa. (Reuters file photo)

their Dublin summit on June 25 and 26.

Mandela says the sanctions must remain in place until De Klerk makes irreversible and significant steps to dismantle apartheid, South Africa's official policy of racial segregation.

The ANC leader, who was to address a rally in Botswana's capital Gaborone later today, leaves for France tomorrow.

Mandela told the reporters a meeting he held with De Klerk on Saturday was part of an ongoing exchange in which they met whenever they thought it was necessary, he said.

He said the lifting partially or wholly of a four-year-old state of emergency, a move widely expected to take place during his tour, would make no difference to the message he would deliver abroad.

The lifting of the emergency is one of the main conditions set by the ANC, the main black opposition movement, for entering formal talks on a new constitution.

It is the fourth foreign trip by the 71-year-old veteran leader since his release in February from a life term in jail for trying to overthrow white rule.

Mandela spent last week in hospital recovering from a minor operation to remove a cyst from his bladder.

Lebanese mourn Khomeini

Hezbollah vows to fight America, Israel

BEIRUT, June 4. (Reuters): Chanting "death to America" and "death to Israel," thousands of Lebanese crowded a square in Beirut's southern suburbs today on the first anniversary of the death of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Some 7,000 people, including weeping men, black-clad women and children in khaki fatigues, answered the call from the pro-Iranian Hezbollah to mourn Iran's former spiritual leader.

"Do you want to mark the imam's memory? Tears are not enough... mark his memory by moving forward, even by one step, towards

confronting the oppressors and the Zionists," Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah told the crowd.

Fadlallah is widely seen as the spiritual mentor of Hezbollah which is believed to hold 15 Western hostages in Lebanon, including six Americans and three Britons.

"We must confront America and its interests in our region. We might not be able to exterminate America or weaken it in the world completely but we can weaken it and undercut its interests in several of our positions," said Fadlallah.

The platform was covered with black flags and posters of Khomeini and his successor Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Fadlallah vehemently criticised Arab leaders and said Israel planned to use the exodus of Soviet Jews to expand its borders.

He was interrupted by chants of "death to America... God is great, Khomeini is our leader, victory to Islam and death to Israel."

Several Muslim areas in Lebanon observed a strike called by 15 Muslim and leftist Lebanese groups and radical Palestinian factions to mark the occasion.

Representatives of the Druze Progressive Socialist Party, the Lebanese Communist Party and the Sunni Muslim Islamic group were among those present. Also attending were officials of several radical Palestinian factions, including the Fatah Revolutionary Council and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command.

Sheikh Naim Kassem, a senior Hezbollah leader, said his group was willing to unite with any party, group or militia willing to fight Israel to the finish, regardless of ideological differences.

"They should leave the land they occupied... it is the Muslim duty to drive them out by force through holy war," he said.

■ Dissident Iranian leader Masoud Rajavi issued a statement on the first anniversary of Khomeini's death saying the government he set up in Tehran will definitely be overthrown.

Rajavi, who heads the Baghdad-based Mojahedin Khalq organisation said: "Khomeini took Iran back half a century in terms of economic and social development."

UK hopes to resume Iran ties

LONDON, June 4. (UPI): British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd said yesterday he hopes Britain and Iran will be able to resume normal relations after rejected calls to condemn Salman Rushdie's controversial novel "The Satanic Verses."

"I cannot, of course, condemn Mr Rushdie or his book," Hurd said at a news conference during a visit to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. His comments were monitored in London.

"I can explain and gladly explain respect for Islam and also our reluctance and our wish not to have any quarrel or dispute either with Islam or with the government or people of Iran," he said.

Hurd's hopes for the resumption of normal relations with Iran were later echoed by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during a phone-in question programme the British Broadcasting Corp.

"It would seem that Iran would like to have talks," Thatcher said. "I hope that it will lead to further talks to the restoration of diplomatic relations between Iran and our country."

"We have the greatest respect for Islam, the greatest possible respect," she said. "We have been quite anxious to start talks once again to restore diplomatic relations, but obviously we cannot do anything to hinder freedom of speech in this country."



Pro-Iranian clerics cry during a mass rally in Beirut's southern suburb to mark the first anniversary of Khomeini's death. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mubarak mediates

Iraq resumes media attacks

KUWAIT, June 4. (Kuna): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is expected to continue his mediation to reconcile rival leaders Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, a Kuwaiti daily quoted well informed sources as saying.

The newspaper quoting unidentified sources disclosed that President Mubarak would step up efforts to achieve the reconciliation before the ordinary Arab summit set for next November in Cairo.

The sources added that the Egyptian president will be working on this mission during Assad's visit to Egypt next month.

Meanwhile, Iraq today resumed its media attacks against Assad after an almost one-month halt aimed at trying

to clear the way for Assad to attend an Arab summit, which Damascus boycotted.

The ruling party newspaper Al Thawra slammed Assad for not attending last week's summit and said the Syrian leader will increase his isolation in the Arab world because he chose to go alone against Arab unanimity.

"It was Assad alone who chose to stay in his circle of isolation, because he was a victim of his delusions," it said in an editorial.

"He thought he could impede the summit... but nobody even mentioned his name and he remained isolated," it added.

"Assad can do nothing now but remain a little broker in the hostage problem and he will continue his conspiracies to wreck Lebanon," Al Thawra said.

A state-run English language daily, the Baghdad Observer, also attacked Assad for his failure to attend the summit, saying his non-participation was prompted by his desire to steal the limelight and to appear as if he could dictate his policies to Arabs.

"It would not be doing an injustice to say that Syria has been the sound of discord in almost every summit. It has stonewalled any bid at joint Arab action, failing to transcend differences with others," the Baghdad Observer said.

Saddam sent Assad a letter inviting him to the summit but to no avail as Assad insisted that he was not consulted prior to the decision taken to convene the summit in Baghdad.

The official news media in Syria completely ignored last week's Arab summit in Baghdad.

Call for anti-drug co-operation: Egypt's interior minister called Monday for greater co-operation among African countries to stop the use of Africans as carriers of banned drugs to developed countries.

Maj Gen Abdel-Halim Mousa, addressing delegates from 40 African countries gathered in Cairo for a four-day conference against drugs, also praised his country's co-operation with the United States and West Germany in the fight against drugs.

"Foreign (criminal) organisations are using an increasing number of Africans to carry their drugs to developed countries," he said. "African countries should co-operate more closely to combat this menace." (UPI)

Suna evacuated after threat: Police Monday evacuated the building of the official Sudan News Agency Suna for two hours after an anonymous caller said a bomb had been planted there, but no explosives were found following the search.

Police said an anonymous caller said a bomb had been planted in a Suna office and would go off at 11 am (0700 GMT). Around 300 Suna employees and local correspondents for Western and Arab news agencies stood out in the street while police diverted traffic and carefully searched the 7-floor building. But nothing was found and the employees were allowed back inside. (AP)

8 fundamentalists held: Eight Muslim fundamentalists suspected of attacking a police bus in southern Egypt with incendiary bombs have been arrested, Interior Minister Abdel-Halim Mousa said Monday.

Mousa, whose ministry is in charge of security, said he had presented Sunday to President Hosni Mubarak a report on the security situation in Egypt, especially after the May 27 incident which left four police officers injured.

His comments were carried by the Middle East News Agency. (AP)

Motherland gains: The government Motherland Party posted significant gains in mayoral elections held Sunday in 51 small towns, according to final results announced Monday.

Premier Yildirim Akbulut described the vote as "a giant public opinion poll. It showed that the support and the power of the citizens are behind the Motherland."

Akbulut repeated Monday that they would stay in power until the end of their term in the fall of 1992. (AP)

Meet on Arab defence: Consultations were underway among Arab countries for a possible emergency meeting of Arab defence ministers in Baghdad to discuss Israeli threats against Iraq, a local Kuwaiti daily reported Monday. (Kuna)

War comes at night

Luanda same for 15 years

LUANDA, Angola, June 4. (AP): By day, life in Luanda has been much the same for 15 years: armed soldiers stand on street corners, women wait in line at dismal shops for the monthly rations of necessities, and everyone looks tired.

At night, war comes to the city, which less than a year ago was cautiously preparing for peace.

Four bombs have exploded in the capital this year. Most of Luanda has been dark after sundown since rebels sabotaged 44 high-voltage pylons east of Luanda in April. Sporadic gunfire can be heard until dawn.

Guerrilla sabotage has interrupted water supplies and delayed food shipments, sending prices soaring in bustling black markets that are much better supplied than state stores, where prices are fixed.

In April, the curfew began at midnight and most people ignored it. Now it starts at 9.30 pm and is enforced by soldiers, who push curfew-breakers into vans and take them to police stations for the night.

Rebel leader Jonas Savimbi was angered by an army offensive deep into his southern strongholds early this year and has stepped up urban sabotage and bombings despite new peace efforts that began in April. Most of the attacks have been in and around Luanda.

In the dusty suburb of Palanca, a young soldier who identified himself only as Ben leaned against the barred doors of a darkened cafe and switched off the regular "Good Morning, Combatant" programme on his transistor radio.

"It's not just that people are frightened to go out at night," he said. "There's no electricity, so there's nowhere to go."

Bars and discos that provide Luandans with a

weekend release from the war are becoming scarce. Last year, new bars and nightclubs began to thrive after President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire brought Savimbi and Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Angola's president, together June 22 and the two foes sealed a truce with a handshake.

The ceasefire collapsed within days, however, and tentative peace talks broke down soon afterward.

In April, low-level officials from both sides met in Portugal for the first discussions since then. Unita has called for a new truce, but government delegates say agreement on terms and a future agenda must come first.

Dos Santos' government, still avowedly Marxist and backed by an estimated \$1.5 billion a year in Soviet military aid, has hinted it might accept rebel demands for free multi-party elections, but only when peace is well established.

"The government doesn't want to prolong a pernicious war when political solutions are feasible among compatriots," Defence Minister Gen. Pedro Maria Tonha said on television last month.

He said Operation Zebra, an offensive the government says captured a strategic airstrip Feb 2 at Mavinga 700 miles (1,100 kms) southeast of Luanda, shows the army, "has sufficient fighting power to silence Unita militarily."

Tonha spoke at a ceremony in southern Cuando-Cubango province, where he decorated soldiers who fought in the campaign.

On May 15, Lt Col Francisco Furtado, Zebra's chief of staff, told foreign reporters visiting the southeastern military base at Cuito Cuanavale his soldiers were withdrawing from Mavinga because it had "lost its strategic importance."

Old FLN returns in force for polls

ALGIERS, June 4. (Reuters): The old guard of Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), pushed to the sidelines for most of the 1980s, has returned in force to lead its campaign for the first free elections next week.

Widely discredited after 28 years of one-party rule, the FLN is seeking to reignite public enthusiasm with a fiery patriotic rhetoric and star speakers from the era of former President Houari Boumedienne.

The campaign appears to have succeeded in mobilising the FLN's traditional constituency—veterans of the 1954-62 guerrilla war against France, civil servants and the peasantry.

But it has run into trouble in inner-city strongholds of the opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and among Berber-speaking supporters of the Socialist Forces Front (FFS) of revolutionary war hero Hocine Ait Ahmed.

"Down with the FLN," shouted residents of the Algiers suburb of Ain Benian, an FFS area, on Saturday night after a rally hosted by Kasdi Merbah, prime minister from 1988 to 1989 and security chief under Boumedienne.

Mohammed Salah Yahiaoui and Abdelaziz Bouteflika, rivals of President Chadli Benjedid at Boumedienne's death in 1979, have been stirring the crowds across the country, according to reports in the state-owned press.

"Who here has not benefited from free medical care and education for all? Can we forget the building of universities and factories and agricultural villages and dams and roads under policies of the front?" asked Yahiaoui, party boss under Boumedienne, at a rally in the western city of Mascara.

FLN rallies often start with a religious appeal for the 15 million Algerians. Algeria said it died in the war against France. Pictures of Boumedienne are posted on the walls and a rally in Bouira, south-west of Algiers, broadcast his speeches.

"Boumedienne is fondly remembered by many Algerians for a period of economic growth in the 1970s, a time of oil revenue, brutally cut in half in the early 1980s."

M'Hammed Yazid, now director of the National Institute for Global Strategic Studies, said recently the FLN was condemned as an outdated system, itself, and replaced the old guard with younger leaders.

But the campaign, which formally ends tomorrow, has been almost entirely by the old guard which made a surprise comeback in the FLN Central Committee last November after nearly a decade out of politics.

This was bound to sharpen divisions within the FLN after the elections between conservative figures and President Chadli Benjedid, who launched liberal economic and political reforms after October 1988 youth riots, political analysts said.

To undercut support for their main rival, the FIS, campaigners have been highlighting the FLN's role in liberating Islam in Algeria from French colonial rule, and vowing to root out corruption in their ranks.

"No country has given as much to our true Islamic religion as Algeria under the leadership of the FLN," former industry and energy minister in the 1970s, Belaid Abdesselam, told a rally in the eastern city of Skikda.

The FLN media say the old timers have been greeted with rapturous applause, whistling women and cries of "Allah Akbar" ("God is Great").

But the limits of their appeal were graphically illustrated in the Algiers district of Hussein Dey on Sunday night where the FIS enjoys wide support among down-and-out youth hit hard by the economic crisis of the 1980s.

■ The French government has sent a technical mission to Algeria to assess the damages and the assistance to be extended after last Saturday's mine accident at Ain Azel, in eastern Algeria.

The flash flood in the Ain Azel zinc and lead is reported to have killed 24 miners at 320 metres below ground.

The Industry Ministry in Paris said that the 12-man technical assistance mission was sent to Algeria at the request of the Algerian Ministry of Industry.

The flash flood, a rather rare phenomenon, is believed to have been caused by either a small earthquake or the heavy rains in that country over the last few weeks.

Hostage Sutherland's daughters wait for his release

FORT COLLINS, Colorado, June 4. (AP): The yellow ribbon on Kit and Joan Sutherland's front-door knocker is now frayed and faded. But that doesn't mean the sisters have given up waiting for their father, held hostage five years in Lebanon.

Thomas Sutherland, a Scottish-born American abducted by Shiite Muslim group in Beirut on June 9, 1985, has been described by former hostage David Jacobson as "one strong, tough Scottish farmer."

And pessimism is not a family trait. "I think, because dad is so strong and... really a happy-go-lucky, wild, over-the-top kind of person, that it's really difficult not to be

that way," Kit Sutherland said.

"I really think something's going to happen," Joan said. "Maybe not tomorrow, but maybe by the end of the summer."

Kit, 29, and Joan, 25, share a house in this university town at the foot of the Rocky mountains. Sutherland's other child Ann, 31, lives with her husband and daughter in California.

Kit is an animal-sciences research assistant at CCU, and Joan works at Fort Collins lending company.

Sutherland, 59, was the dean of agriculture and food science at the American University of Beirut and was on leave from Colorado State University in Fort Collins

when gunmen kidnapped him as he drove in a convoy to Beirut airport.

Sutherland travelled from Scotland to the United States in the 1950s to continue his agriculture studies at Iowa State University. He met his wife, Jean, there and married.

He became a US citizen in 1963 but retained his love for his native land.

"He knows Robert Burns poems," recalled freed hostage Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco, who shared a year's captivity with Sutherland. "And he would recite them with that wonderful Scots accent."

His daughters also credit the strength of

their mother, Jean, with keeping their hopes high.

Mrs Sutherland, 56, teaches English at American University and except for visits to see her daughters, has remained in Beirut. She was in Fort Collins finishing her doctoral thesis when her husband was kidnapped.

The release of two American hostages in April, and a recent report in a Beirut magazine saying Sutherland was ill and would be released soon, are encouraging signs, she said.

The sisters plan to mark the fifth anniversary of his captivity at events in the Fort Collins and Denver areas.

'No guarantees for loans to resettle immigrants'

Israel asked for assurances that money will not be spent in occupied lands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 4. (AP) The US administration has informed Israel it would not provide guarantees for housing loans to resettle Soviet immigrants unless the Jewish state gives assurances the money would not be spent in the occupied lands, Israeli television said yesterday.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' adviser Dan Naveh said he was not aware of such a message from Washington, and that the ministry has not received any announcement to that effect.

Israel seeks \$400 million in US-government guaranteed housing loans

to resettle some of the estimated 100,000 to 150,000 Soviet Jews expected to immigrate this year. Some 35,000 Soviet Jews have arrived so far in 1990.

The US administration is concerned that some of the immigrants would settle in the occupied West Bank or the Gaza Strip, home to 1.7 million Palestinians. About 70,000 Jews have settled in those areas since Israel captured them from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

President George Bush, speaking yesterday at a news conference in Washington that summed up the four-

day US-Soviet summit reiterated US opposition to further settlements, saying: "US policy is unchanged and clear. We oppose new settlements in territories beyond the 1967 lines."

Israel says it has no policy of directing new immigrants to the occupied territories, the scene of the 29-month Palestinian uprising where only 0.5 per cent of the Soviet newcomers have moved so far.

But the administration has informed the Israeli government last week it would not provide the loan guarantees "until there is a government in Israel

that can assure the money would not be spent in the occupied territories," the television said.

In a related development, the television said aides to Secretary of State James A. Baker have prepared a secret "position paper" recommending a series of actions against the Israeli government which they blamed for blocking the Middle East peace process.

Baker has proposed preliminary Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo but Israel's right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir refused to provide a

positive response, leading to the March 16 collapse of the ruling coalition.

An Israeli minister said the government should stick to its policies and ride out threats by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to stop Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel.

Another minister invited the Kremlin leader to tour to Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Gorbachev, at his Washington summit with US President George Bush, said yesterday he might consider halting the flow of Jewish emigrants unless Israel gave assurances that they would

not settle in the occupied territories.

Minister-without-portfolio Ehud Olmert, who is close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said he doubted Gorbachev's sincerity in making the remarks.

"If President Gorbachev is looking for an excuse for a decision he had already taken to stop emigration, then let's call the bluff," Olmert said.

"If not, then he knows and everybody knows that the government of Israel has... no policy of settling Jews in Judea, Samaria (Israeli terms for the West Bank) and Gaza," he said.

Shamir likely to form new govt

Likud leader claims majority

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 4. (Agencies) Caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said today he would form a new government next week likely to oppose US proposals for first-ever peace talks with Palestinians.

Unable to revive his fallen unity government with the more dovish Labour Party, the Likud Party premier was on the verge of forging a hardline coalition.

"I don't rule out any option until I present the government to Parliament. For now I am working to form a government based on a majority of 61 to 65 votes," he told reporters in Tel Aviv.

Shamir, 74, said he would inform President Chaim Herzog by Thursday that he would put his new government to a confidence vote in Parliament early next week.

The 61 to 65 votes in the 120-seat Parliament include far-right parties favouring harsher measures to end,

30-month-old Palestinian uprising and new Jewish settlements in Israeli-occupied Arab lands.

Accused of blocking peace, Shamir would shun partners to his right if he could win back Labour.

Many political commentators fear a right-wing government would lead Israel into increasing isolation at a time it needs support in absorbing hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

But Labour toppled the unity government in March over Shamir's refusal to accept the US proposals for Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo and would rejoin Shamir only if he reconsidered entering the talks.

Avi Pazner, Shamir's media adviser, said there were no negotiations under way with Labour.

"I don't even know if it's practical. I think Shamir wants to form a narrow government and only afterwards try to broaden it. He will try to do something that is acceptable to everyone," he told Reuters.

Shamir is under intense pressure from hardliners led by Ariel Sharon to form a government without Labour.

Israel believes the United States will maintain its dialogue with the PLO despite a foiled sea raid by Palestinian gunmen on Israel last week, a senior government official said today.

A Palestinian accused of helping Israeli occupation authorities was found dead today as Arab activists marked the first anniversary of the death in Israeli custody of prisoners' leader Omar Al Qassem.

Quakes, rains delay aid to south Sudan

TIBARI CAMP, Sudan, June 4. (Reuters) Hundreds of refugees have died and tens of thousands of people are going hungry in southern Sudan as earthquakes and rains delay relief supplies.

Few are starving but food is scant in areas such as Tibari Camp, relief workers told a Reuters correspondent during a 10-day trip to parts held by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

At the camp 215 people have died from malnutrition and disease since fleeing two months ago from heavy fighting around the besieged regional capital Juba, 55 km (35 miles) southwest of Tibari, camp director Romano Lobwo said.

"We can't do anything for them. We have no medicine and we're running out of food," said Benemina Wasuk, leaning against a straw hut as the eight-month-old child wailed.

The SPLA has fought since 1983 to end what it sees as domination by the Muslim, Arabised north of the largely Christian and animist south. The war has displaced hundreds of thousands of people and drought has worsened their plight.

"It's a nightmare. We got stuck 12 times and had to leave one truck behind," a weary convoy leader said on Thursday after arriving with 11 trucks in Bor, a steamy town on the white Nile River north of Juba.

Lebanese newsman killed in cross-fire

BEIRUT, June 4. (AP) A Lebanese television photographer was killed in cross-fire between rival Christian forces during a peace march in east Beirut, police reported today.

They said Pierre Shbat, a cameraman working for the Lebanese Broadcasting Corp. television station, was killed last afternoon during a peace march he was filming at the Dog river confrontation line in Christian east Beirut.

Police gave no other details about Shbat, the 14th newsman to be killed in the 15-year-old civil war.

LBC is controlled by Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia, which has been fighting troops of rebel Gen. Michel Aoun in an inconclusive showdown for control of the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) Christian enclave since Jan 30.

Shbat's death raised the overall casualty toll in that power struggle to at least 1,036 people killed and 2,770 wounded.

Witnesses said the shooting occurred after Lebanese Forces militiamen tried to kidnap a Lebanese Army soldier at a checkpoint during the peace march, designed to bring people from the partitioned enclave to meet at the Dog river tunnel.

One witness, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Shbat, about 24, was killed in the shooting that followed the attempted kidnapping of the soldier by plainclothes armed men of Geagea's militia.

In an unrelated event, six children were wounded yesterday when an unexploded mortar shell blew up in predominantly Shiite Muslim south Beirut while they were playing, according to police.

They said the shell was left over from last year's shelling duels between Aoun's troops and the Syrian Army.

Police said tension was high today in south Lebanon's port city of Sidon, a day after unidentified gunmen killed two Sunni Muslim militiamen and wounded another at their checkpoint near the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein Al Hilweh.

They said gunmen in a BMW car raked the checkpoint manned by members of the Sunni National Front militia yesterday, with automatic weapons, and sped away.

Lebanese President Elias Hiriawi was quoted as saying he would ask Egypt, the only Arab state with ties with Israel, to use its influence to get Israeli troops withdrawn from southern Lebanon.

Hiriawi, who is expected tomorrow to pay his first visit to Cairo since he was elected president in November, told the mass-circulation Al Akhbar newspaper he would also seek Egyptian help to assert his control over his war-torn country.

"My meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is of great importance," Hiriawi said in an interview appearing in today's edition of Al Akhbar.

Hiriawi has been unable to extend his sovereignty over Beirut, torn apart by inter-Christian and inter-Shiite battles.

PLO to discuss ties with superpowers

BAGHDAD, June 4. (Reuters) Palestinian leaders will meet in Iraq tomorrow to discuss deteriorating relations with the United States and their hopes that Moscow might slow an exodus of Jews to Israel.

The PLO executive committee will discuss the impact on Middle East peace prospects of a superpower summit that ended today and an Arab summit last week, a PLO spokesman told Reuters.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said in the Washington talks that Moscow might stem Jewish emigration if migrants settled in the Israeli-occupied

West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Gorbachev's statement shows Moscow has begun to be aware of the negative impacts of Soviet Jewish immigration and US-Israel attempts to undermine Soviet-Arab relations," PLO Ambassador to Baghdad Azam Al Ahmed said.

Israel says 250,000 Soviet Jews might immigrate in 1990. About 38,000 have already arrived.

The PLO leaders would also discuss a US veto of a UN Security Council resolution on Thursday to send observers to the occupied areas.

'Behind the Myth'

BBC to air Arafat film

LONDON, June 4. (Kuna) BBC Television is to give for the first time some human insight into the life of the Palestinian President, Yasser Arafat.

In a programme "Behind the Myth" to be screened tomorrow night, Marie Colvin, the Sunday Times Middle East correspondent, will talk to Arafat and try to offer her assessment of what lies behind "the enigmatic smile of the Palestinian leader."

According to a preview of this programme, the British media said that Arafat's smile is maintained through most of this 60-minute programme, as the camera follows him through his daily routine.

His meals are repetitive. The TV documentary also shows Arafat's flitting about North Africa, "armed with a fax machine by which he communicates to PLO offices."

The BBC said "never does he look more a prisoner of his political position than during his daily 30 minutes of fast walking in some confined safe space."



Arafat's wax figure, unveiled

A wax figure of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, (shown above) complete with his usual stubble beard and a replica pistol, went on display at Madame Tussaud's museum in London on Monday.

Arafat's figure — with the inscription "President Yasser Arafat of the State of Palestine" — will eventually stand in the waxwork museum's grand hall of the royal and famous. Among others there are Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion.

The waxwork of Arafat depicts him leaning slightly backwards with both hands behind his back. A replica of the handgun he frequently carries is fitted snugly into a holster. Three pens are tucked into the shoulder pocket of his battle fatigues.

Above sculptor David Goode adjusts Arafat's keffiyeh (head gown) during a sitting. (Reuters wirephoto)

At the camp 215 people have died from malnutrition and disease since fleeing two months ago from heavy fighting around the besieged regional capital Juba, 55 km (35 miles) southwest of Tibari, camp director Romano Lobwo said.

"We can't do anything for them. We have no medicine and we're running out of food," said Benemina Wasuk, leaning against a straw hut as the eight-month-old child wailed.

The SPLA has fought since 1983 to end what it sees as domination by the Muslim, Arabised north of the largely Christian and animist south. The war has displaced hundreds of thousands of people and drought has worsened their plight.

"It's a nightmare. We got stuck 12 times and had to leave one truck behind," a weary convoy leader said on Thursday after arriving with 11 trucks in Bor, a steamy town on the white Nile River north of Juba.

The Bush administration has been trying for nearly a year to convene Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo on Israel's plan for Arab elections in the occupied areas as a prelude to self-rule.

Wooing Palestinians in the occupied territories was a key element because of Israel's refusal to negotiate with the PLO.

The local Palestinians said Thursday's US veto — blocking a UN Security Council search for ways to protect Arabs under Israeli rule — was the final straw after what they called months of futile talks with US diplomats.

"All the meetings with the consulate amounted to zero," leading nationalist Faisal Al Hussein told Reuters. "Our voice did not reach them; they did not understand the message. It was like a dialogue with

dead people."

"It is not good to break contact with anybody, but it was the least we could do considering that contact and no contact are the same," said Radwan Abu Ayash, head of the Arab Journalists Association and a supporter of the PLO's mainstream Fatah Movement.

Husseini and Abu Ayash were among Palestinian leaders who ended a 13-day hunger strike on Friday without achieving the UN protection they sought for the 1.75 million Arabs waging an uprising against Israeli occupation.

Both have been tipped as peace negotiators with Israel.

The Palestinian leaders said there would still be limited contact with US diplomats in occupied



Call to end fighting

Christian clergymen and nuns lead a peace march in Christian east Beirut June 3 to call for an end to four months of fighting between rival Christian forces. (Reuters wirephoto)

Winged bulls unearthed

Iraqi team makes find at Nineveh

BAGHDAD, June 4. (AP) Archaeologists have unearthed seven 2,600-year-old winged bulls and other artifacts in the first major discovery for many years at the ancient Assyrian capital of Nineveh, state television said yesterday.

Manhal Jabur, chief of archaeology in the northern city of Mosul, was quoted on television as saying the discovery will shed important light on the Assyrian civilisation that extended from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea in the first millennium BC.

The television quoted Jabur as saying the discovery was made several days ago by an Iraqi team in downtown Mosul, close to the wall of ancient Nineveh.

The artifacts found in the palace of King Esarhaddon, all believed to be 2,600 years old included the huge winged bulls, two other large statues and other important findings.

Esarhaddon, who ruled from 681-669 BC, rebuilt Babylon after it was conquered and

destroyed by his father, Sennacherib.

The son, known for mastery of both military force and diplomacy, conquered Egypt, defeated Pharaoh Taharqa and seized his capital Memphis.

Scores of Iraqi and foreign archaeological teams have dug at Nineveh, about 250 miles (402 miles) north of Baghdad, since British explorer Henry Layard uncovered huge stone sculptures and inscriptions in the nearby Assyrian capital of Nimrud in the 1840s.

Jabur said the seven stone bulls, which were considerably damaged, were found at the southern gate of Esarhaddon's palace.

Assyrian kings used winged bulls to decorate the entrances of their palaces as if they were guards. The seven bulls are marked with cuneiform inscriptions.

Jabur said one statue represents a human body that could be the legendary Sumerian hero Gilgamesh. He is holding a lion's head in his right hand and a sword in his left.

Sahara peace talks postponed

GENEVA, June 4. (Reuters) Planned talks on the future of the western Sahara were postponed until tomorrow after hitting an early snag.

Thirty-eight tribal leaders were due to begin three days of talks under UN auspices in Geneva about a referendum on whether the former Spanish colony's people want independence or integration into Morocco.

But, after a day of behind-the-scenes wrangling over how representative some of the delegates were, the gathering was postponed for 24 hours, officials said.

Destructive weapons

China supports Egypt

CAIRO, June 4. (AP) China's Minister of National Defence Qian Qihui said today that his country supports Egypt's proposal for making the Middle East free of mass destruction weapons.

Qian made the statement following a meeting with Egypt's Defence Minister Maj. Gen. Yousef Sabry Abu Taleb in which they discussed increasing military co-operation between

their two countries.

Abu Taleb and Qian expressed satisfaction with bilateral relations.

"My talks with Maj. Gen. Abu Taleb were honest and friendly and we exchanged views on all issues that are of interest to us," the Chinese minister said.

"We support President (Hosni) Mubarak's proposal to make the Middle East free of mass destruction weapons."

Amman leaning towards Baghdad

AMMAN, June 4. (Reuters) King Hussein of Jordan, sensing peril at home and on his borders, badly needs Arab support.

So far only Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has responded — with a promise of \$50 million — to his emotional appeal for financial aid at last week's Arab summit in Baghdad.

The king is leaning heavily towards Iraq in his search for military protection and economic backing to fend off perceived Israeli threats and keep the lid on domestic discontent.

"We need your support now, not tomorrow, not in the future," Hussein told the summit, saying Jordan had exhausted its resources in defending the longest Arab frontline with Israel.

Government ministers say privately Amman wants more than \$750 million in Arab aid, including \$500 million from Saudi Arabia, the treasury's mainstay in the past. One priority is to halt a decline in the combat readiness of the armed forces.

Arab diplomats said Riyadh had committed itself to giving \$200 million, yet to be paid, and it was not clear what Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and others would donate.

"The Gulf states assured support but refused to make specific commitments in Baghdad," one Gulf diplomat said.

The king's speech drew mixed reactions at home. Some Jordanians felt he was right to tell the Arabs to their faces they were risking their own security by not helping Amman.

Others were distressed at the alarmist tone and said Hussein could have delivered his appeal in private with more dignity.

But few seem unhappy with Jordan's deepening ties with Iraq, natural candidate for a protective role after Saddam Hussein said he had binary chemical weapons and would retaliate against Israel for any attack on Iraq or another Arab country.

King Hussein backed Iraq, now the Arab world's leading military power, throughout its eight-year war with Iran.

The king's many troubles include a flood of Soviet Jews to Israel. He fears they will settle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and drive thousands of Palestinians into Jordan, which Israeli rightwingers already describe as the Palestinian state.

Two weeks ago, Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan erupted in anger at the May 20 murder of seven Arab workers in Israel. Three refugees died in clashes with police.

King Hussein linked the unrest to "feelings of anger and frustration towards Israel and the crimes committed by it."

Some senior officials say pro-Syrian Palestinian factions and Muslim groups exploited the protests to test the limits of government tolerance and might do so again.

Deadlock in Middle East peace efforts, along with Soviet Jewish immigration, has embittered many of the quarter of a million refugees in camps, where Islamist influence is growing.

"There are so many young Palestinians, charged with hatred and frustration, who feel they are paying the price for crimes committed by others, including the Arab regimes. They don't care where their anger is directed," one Arab diplomat said.

So far government policy has aimed to contain rather than suppress popular protests, but the king knows that the Jordanian tribesmen who form the core of his army take a dim view of defiant expressions of Palestinian nationalism.

Price riots by East Bank Jordanians in April 1989 prompted the king to hold free elections and ease political restrictions, hoping to win popular acceptance for an austerity programme.

The government is still struggling to hold together an economy bent under an \$8 billion foreign debt and to cope with inflation, unemployment and a population boom.

Threat to burn liquor shops

AMMAN, June 4. (Reuters) Islamic fundamentalists are sending arson threats to owners of liquor shops in the Jordanian capital, a security source said today.

He said several proprietors received leaflets this week from a hitherto unknown group calling itself Muslim youth.

The leaflets threaten to burn down shops unless they stopped selling alcohol, which is prohibited by Islam.

Municipal employees fired for 'selling' information

KUWAIT Municipality has fired three employees for allegedly selling vital information to "foreign agents," an Arabic newspaper reported yesterday. Several others were fired for breaking municipal rules, according to an Al Rai Al Aam report which quoted a top official.

Municipality's Acting Director-General Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali told the daily that three employees were allegedly involved in giving "vital information" to foreign agents. They also forged certain documents.

The services of other municipal staff were terminated for abusing their official status and selling real estate documents, Al Ali said.

Al Ali said some of the employees had been "detained for questioning for more than 20 days." Their services were terminated for "violating the civil service law." According to the law, an employee who does not report to duty for 15 consecutive days without prior permission is liable to termination.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Appreciation

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah sent letters of appreciation to former members of the Higher Petroleum and Planning Councils.

His Highness praised their effective contribution in works of the two councils and their accomplishments during the past three years.

The Crown Prince appreciated the former members efforts and co-operation and affirmed his confidence in continuation of their efforts for the sake of our dear country's progress and welfare.

Religious affairs

KUWAIT, June 4, (Kuna): Sudanese Religious Guidance Minister Abdullah Deng Lual arrived here last night for a visit to Kuwait.

Lual and the accompanying delegation was received by Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister Khalid Ahmed Al Jassar and senior ministry officials.

● Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah Monday received at his office the Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait, Abdullah Al Sedairi.

● Minister of Trade and Industry Faisal Abdul Razaq Al Khalid Monday received the Syrian Ambassador to Kuwait, Dr Moustafa Al Haj Ali on the occasion of assuming his post.

Discussion between the two sides tackled trade co-operation between the two countries and means of boosting them.

● Ahmad Governor Sheikh Al Sabah Al Salem received at his office Monday the Italian, Bulgarian and British ambassadors to Kuwait. The meetings were held separately. They discussed bilateral issues.

● HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah yesterday received at his Diwan at the Bayan Palace Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber and Oil Minister Sheikh Al Ali Khalifa Al Athbi and Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al Ahmed.

Reviving marine memories

A MARINE rally featuring the seafaring heritage is to be held in Kuwait. The nearly two-month event will be attended by seafarers from Kuwait and all the Gulf states. Invitation to Gulf states have been sent.

It will be organised by the Kuwait Sea Club, which holds it annually, to uphold the marine heritage and preserve such values.

A higher committee has been formed to prepare for the event. It comprises Brigadier Fahed Al Fahed (chairman), Sultan Al Mudhaf (deputy chairman), Ali Al Qabandi and Najeeb Al Qabandi.

Sultan Al Mudhaf has praised the support given by HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. He said due to the widespread interest in the event, they have decided to make it a Gulf event.



Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij with Howell

ICO meeting postponed

Meet rescheduled to avoid haj quota clash

CAIRO, June 4, (Reuters): A meeting of Islamic states has been postponed until July 30 to avoid a clash between Saudi Arabia and Iran over the annual Muslim pilgrimage (haj), Arab diplomats said on Monday.

Foreign Ministers of the 46-nation Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) had been due to gather in Cairo in mid-June. The diplomats said the meeting had

now been put back until after the haj, which takes place during the first week of July.

"Saudi Arabia wanted the meeting postponed to abort any attempt by Iran to reopen the quota issue," one Arab ambassador said.

Iran is angry because Saudi Arabia has granted it a quota of only 45,000 pilgrims and is expected to boycott the haj for the

third consecutive year.

The postponement was requested by several ICO states. Officials here said preparatory meetings had now been set for July 28 and 29 followed by a three-day foreign ministers meeting.

Muslim rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia have been at odds since the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Tehran.

Relations reached their lowest point

after more than 400 people, mainly Iranian pilgrims, were killed in the holy city of Makkah in 1987 during clashes between Iranian-led demonstrators and Saudi security forces.

In 1988 the ICO accepted a Saudi request to impose quotas at the haj while it upgrades and increases capacity at the holy sites. Iran's share was cut by two-thirds to 45,000 pilgrims.

Qatar and Egypt sign two agreements

CAIRO, June 4, (Kuna): Qatar's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani said Monday his current visit to Egypt is a follow up of the visit made by the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad.

In a statement after signing bilateral co-operation agreements, Sheikh Hamad pointed out that the Egyptian-Qatar meeting touched on all international issues that concern the Arab nation, including the Palestinian cause and means of supporting the PLO as well as bilateral relations.

The talks also dealt with importance of Arab solidarity in facing the current antagonistic campaigns being waged against Arab countries.

The issue of Yemeni unity was also stressed upon, and considered a milestone in the future

of the Arab nation and joint Arab development, Sheikh Hamad said.

Qatar's Crown Prince and Minister of Defence Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani had held talks with Egypt's Prime Minister Dr Atef Sidqi this afternoon.

The talks resulted in the signing of two agreements in the fields of culture and transportation.

Qatari sources said the discussions covered means of enhancing bilateral relations in the fields of economy, politics, media and education as well as means of developing these relations to suit the interest of the two countries.

Soviet Jewish emigration and international developments, reflecting the Arab world were also discussed, added the sources.



Education staff honoured

Kuwait's Minister of Education Anwar Al Nouri patronised a reception to honour senior ministry staff, who were praised for their outstanding service to the country.

Education Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khodari welcomed the guests. A large number of senior officials also attended. Above: Al Nouri presenting a gift to one of the employees.

Solidarity urged

KUWAIT, June 4, (Kuna): The world today celebrates the International Day for Environment to remind governments and people of the importance of preserving the environment.

Executive Secretary of the Regional Organisation for Protection of Marine Environment and Kuwait's Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadhi delivered a statement yesterday to outline Rome's march since its formation by the eight Gulf states.

Dr Awadhi then appealed to the member countries to increase their material and moral efforts in the field of preserving environment.

He called on media means and non-profit societies to positively participate in eliminating "environment illiteracy" which poses as a major obstacle before achieving the organisation's goals.

Oman fines tanker company for oil spill

MUSCAT, Oman, June 4, (AP): The Norwegian owners of a tanker accused of spilling oil in the Gulf of Oman will be fined and sent an estimated \$30,000 bill for the mopping up operation in the first environmental prosecution case of its kind in the Gulf industry lawyers said Monday.

"The vessel is being made an example to others and the Environment Ministry has made

it clear they are watching out for any similar incident in future," said a legal source whose employment rules prevent him from being named.

"Tankers caught dumping oil in the Gulf in future are really going to be hit hard," he said. "Oman is basically telling people they can't just pass through and dump their garbage."

The 158,000-ton Gibraltar-

registered Huasco Valley was charged with dumping oil from its bilges and leaving a four-mile (six-kilometre) long slick off the Mina Al Fahal Oil Export Terminal, 10 miles (16 kilometres) northwest of the capital May 23. It was lifting Omani oil destined for the United States. The owners have been identified by the Lloyd's Shipping Agency as Invest 2000 Sa of Oslo. The vessel

with its Indian Master was held under port arrest till the case was determined.

"The owners face a fine of around \$10,000 under the Oman Marine Pollution Law and must pay the costs of police, Coast Guard, Air Force and Environment Action Unit Operations involved in dispersant spraying and supervision to control the

spill," said the source. He estimated the cost of the mopping up operation at about \$20,000.

He described the fine as "low" because it was worked out according to tonnage and warned that the law may be revised in the light of this case, resulting in more punitive legislation in future incidents.

Focus on exams

Evaluating the system

■ The examination committee heads held a meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of Education Undersecretary Abdulrahman Al Khodari.

Assistant undersecretaries Abdulmohsen Al Saeed and Rasheed Al Hamad also attended. Bader Al Saqabi, director of planning and Bader Al Shamroukh, director, school activities, also took part.

The officials discussed several aspects of examining schemes and other relevant topics.

■ Secondary and intermediate exams are progressing satisfactorily thanks to the efforts exerted by the principals and officials in Ahmad, the director of Ahmad Education Area, Abdullah Al Luqman said.

The official added that this year, students have demonstrated serious commitment to exam ethics and manifested a high-level of self-reliance.

The area is mobilising all potentials to ensure that the exams are conducted in an organised and quiet atmosphere which is essential to being conducive to students concentration. Luqman said.

■ The Director of the Educational Researches Centre, Dr Issa Jasem, said there is a need to

reconsider results examination methods and systems, because of their importance in the educational process. The Ministry of Education has gained experience in evaluating results but the system requires development. He stressed the need to conduct studies and researches to improve examination systems. He proposed the establishment of a national centre to evaluate and measure the educational process. He said some examination systems resulted in the private tuition phenomenon.

■ Dalya Samra, a student in the first secondary grade said that some examination questions are unrelated to curricula taught in the academic year. She claims the ministry has ask tricky questions to confuse students, and avoids using direct questions. Such questions can be answered by smart students. She said many students discover after giving the exam that they have answered incorrectly despite knowing the right answers. She said that this was due to the lack of clarity on the questions.

Some students said the current examination system is highly complicated. "It is an old system which fails to evaluate the real effort and ability of students," they said.

Experts honoured

THE Public Authority for Applied Education and Training yesterday held a ceremony to honour two Canadian experts currently visiting the authority. The experts were honoured by deputy director-general of Paet Homoud Al Mudaf. Right: Al Mudaf presenting an award to one of the experts.

Trade talks

NICOSIA, June 4, (Reuters): French Foreign Trade Minister Jean-Marie Rausch held trade talks on Monday with Omani Commerce Minister Salem Bin Abdullah Al Ghazali.

Ghazali told the Omani News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, that they also discussed several tourist projects in the Sultanate proposed by French companies.



Agro talks held

US stance violates Palestinian rights

Howell summoned

KUWAIT, June 4, (Kuna): State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saud Mohammed Al Ossaimi today summoned the US ambassador to Kuwait Wilson Nathaniel Howell.

A reliable source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry said that the talks centered on the US recent stance at the UN Security Council. Al Ossaimi expressed Kuwait's profound regret at Washington's veto of a draft resolution to send a fact-finding panel to the occupied Arab territories.

Ossaimi also expressed his country's dissatisfaction with the American stance, which

violates Palestinian rights in the occupied Arab territories and also encourages Israel to go on with its repressive policies against Palestinians.

He added that the said US veto will affect its ability to play a key role in the Mideast peace process.

● The chairman and Director-General of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij yesterday received in his office the US ambassador to Kuwait Wilson Nathaniel Howell.

The meeting reviewed means of agricultural co-operation between the two sides. The US envoy briefed Duaij on the sphere where Kuwait can benefit from US expertise and advanced technology.

They agreed to resume discussion of how to benefit from US agricultural experiences.

Earlier, Sheikh Duaij received Charge D'Affaires of the United Arab Emirates embassy and discussed expanding of existing agricultural co-operation, particularly in landscaping, between the two countries.

Nasser attends labour meeting



Sheikh Nasser

KUWAIT, June 4, (Kuna): Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Jaber Sunday left here for Geneva to participate in the 77th session of the International Labour Conference, due to be held there June 7-28.

In a departure statement to newsmen, the Kuwaiti minister described the annual conference as "very important". It will be attended by representatives of a number of advanced and Third World countries to tackle various issues concerning relations between governments,

businessmen and labourers. He said the conference will review a report prepared by the Director General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), including a number of environmental and developmental issues. They will also focus on the role of governments and concerned organisations in solving problems pertinent to the labourers' health and safety from professional hazards.

Sheikh Nasser said the conference will be a golden chance for Arab representatives to coordinate their positions toward regional issues like Palestinian question and North-South relations.

Western media biased: Barges

KUWAIT, June 4, (Kuna): Press institutions in several Arab states face government controls limiting the freedom of expression which is necessary for objectivity and credibility, a leading Kuwaiti journalist said here last night.

Speaking to participants in a special programme on mass media in Kuwait, supervised by the Kuwaiti Teachers Society, Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency Barges H. Al Barges also said that teaching a mass media curriculum in educational programmes has become a necessity.

Barges told the group that Western news agencies failed to dominate the relatively new Arab news agencies which have upgraded their performance and improved services.

Kuwait's Islamic gift to world

KUWAIT, June 4, (Kuna): Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Khaled Ahmed Al Jassar Monday said the ministry intends to conclude an agreement with the Jeddah-based Islamic Bank for Development to publish important references in Islamic Fiqh (jurisprudence).

In a statement to Kuna, Jassar said the plan to publish these references would be a gift from Kuwait and the bank to the scientific and research institutions in the Islamic world. The reference work will meet the demands of people doing Islamic jurisprudence research.

The minister said Kuwait has put up this project before the Islamic Bank which has an interest. It will be complete, comprehensive work that would benefit all Islamic countries.

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Stress on research

Kuwait needs experienced researchers

SENIOR Kuwaiti officials stressed the need for qualified researchers in the field of science and technology. They said that the number of full time researchers in Kuwait is lower than in developing countries. "If we want high standard scientific research, we must have more highly qualified full time researchers," they said.

The officials admitted it was early to compare the quality and cost of local research with that of the advanced world. "They have long experience in this field and its too early to catch up with them," said Minister of Communications Abdullah Al Shabhan. "We must first determine the goals," he added, stressing the urgent need to encourage Kuwaiti researchers.

Minister of Electricity and Water, Dr Homoud Al Rqobah, said that the majority of advanced countries focus on basic research while most local research is centred on applied sciences. He said: "Local research in the majority of cases is more suitable to our needs and environment". He added that foreign research has an inherent drawback which is reflected in its high costs and is unsuitable in the local environment.

Agreeing with Rqobah, Minister of Finance, Jassem Al Khorafi said that the local researcher is naturally more attached to local issues and has a better understanding of its dimensions. However, Khorafi recommended that it is advisable to merge

foreign expertise with the local concepts of the issues involved. He said: "This is the method" followed by the Ministry of Finance to study the course of the Kuwaiti economy. The study, he said, was a joint effort between local researchers, who were assisted by foreign experts. He added that if this method is followed in most fields, positive results will be achieved.

The minister called for encouraging the spirit of research and creativity among the younger generation who should be made to realise that the importance of any research does not rest in securing high marks only, but that research is highly vital for the progress of the country.

Commenting on the same subject, Minister of Higher Education, Dr Ali Al Shamlan said that many Kuwaiti researchers are published every year in many important international magazines. He said that Kuwait University and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research provide ample opportunities and facilities to undertake research in Kuwait and some of these can be equated with the high standards developed in advanced countries. However, Shamlan confirmed that researches carried out in advanced countries are much more numerous in quantity and of a more sophisticated level than those carried out in developing countries. Another dignitary, Dr Ali Akbar, assis-

tant rector for scientific research at Kuwait University, said that until the beginning of the sixth decade of this century, scientific research was limited in the entire Arab world except Egypt.

Subsequently, he said, research activities picked up substantially to the extent that the number of research papers published increased by 560 per cent between 1967 and 1983. Presently, the official said that the scientific research output of the Arab world is at the same level as that of India, Mexico and Brazil — these three being the more scientifically advanced Third World countries.

Akbar said Egypt, which has 25 per cent of the Arab population, produces 40 per cent of the Arab scientific research. The GCC states, with five per cent of Arab population, produce 27 per cent of Arab scientific research. Further, the Arab world has 71 universities in addition to 500 scientific research centres where over 51,000 Arab researchers work. However, Akbar commented that the productivity of these centres is not satisfactory.

He said in 1983, for example, only 12 of these centres published over 50 papers each. Four Gulf universities, headed by Kuwait University, were among the 12 centres — seven of these centres published 100 papers or more each, with Kuwait University ranking third after Cairo and Alexandria University.

In the Arab world, Egypt stands first in relation to the quantity of research, with Saudi Arabia second and Kuwait third. However, Kuwait has the best growth rate in scientific research closely followed by Saudi Arabia and in 1987, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were in 7th and 10th positions respectively among Arab countries.

Akbar said that if these two countries continue with the present growth rate, by the year 2,000 they will cross the scientific rates existing in all Third World countries and could well be parallel to those of advanced countries.

Director-General Dr Ahmad Al Jassar said that KISR has always encouraged Kuwaiti researchers. They are given the opportunity and all the necessary equipment to improve their functions and gain experience. In addition, KISR organises local programmes and training courses for employees and students. It also sends Kuwaiti youths to specialised training courses abroad. Kuwaiti students are sent for post-graduate studies in foreign countries. KISR provides the opportunity to its researchers to attend important international seminars and symposia to gain experience and acquaint themselves with the latest developments. This has successfully produced a number of highly qualified Kuwaiti researchers who are now leading scientific research programmes in the institute, Al Jassar said.



Sheikh Saad (right) with Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa.



Ministers Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak, health; Anwar Al Nouri, education; and Dr Ali Shamlan, higher education.

Premier chairs Higher Planning Council

KUWAIT, June 4, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Monday chaired the opening session of the newly-appointed Higher Planning Council.

Addressing the meeting, Sheikh Saad praised efforts of outgoing members and hoped new members success in discharging their responsibility.

His Highness also reminded the council of the immense tasks lying ahead, including the long-term development plan, the development plan for the next five years as well as reports and studies on socio-economic aspects and the housing plan were also stressed.

The Crown Prince and Premier urged members of the council to devote more sessions for this purpose and called for increased co-operation between the country's public and private sectors to realise the aspired quantum leap in Kuwaiti life by the year 2000.

"As long as we plan in a long-term and overall perspective, we will be able, God willing, to build the Kuwaiti individual and provide him with the necessary means for promotion and development of his faculties," he stressed.

The council's three-year term of office has expired recently and its new formation was decreed by HH the Amir late last month.

During its hour-long meeting today, the newly formed council named its specialised committees for general policies, housing and development of human resources, economy and social services.

The council's secretary-general Foad Mulla Hussein said members had referred to the economic committee the country's draft budget for fiscal 1990-91 submitted by the Planning Ministry for necessary study and reporting to the next session.

UAE plan to reduce expatriate labour

Unemployment high

THE Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is currently preparing a new comprehensive scheme to replace expatriate workers with national cadres. It is also encouraging citizens to join the private sector.

In an interview with the Gulf News Agency (GNA), Khalifa Al Roumi, the UAE's minister of social affairs and labour, said that the ministry is in the process of setting up local banks, hotels, insurance companies, oil companies and private establishments to create suitable jobs for nationals, commensurate with their qualifications and experience.

He added that providing suitable employment to graduates has become one of the prominent problems the government sector has been facing in recent years. The unemployment have risen. The state is trying to provide job opportunities to citizens in the private sector and is preparing its nationals to lead the national development plans and shoulder their country's responsibilities.

The official underscored the government's intention not to enact any specific legislation which would oblige the private sector to recruit citizens. However, the success in implementing the scheme will mainly depend on the co-operation of the private sector.

He said that the law stipulates that work permits should be given to citizens and only in those cases where the necessary expertise is not locally available, a work visa for an expatriate will be provided.

In a related development, the chancellor of the UAE University and the chairman of the Faculty of High Technology, Sheikh Nahayan Ben Mubarak said that the faculty will incorporate a special programme on banking studies in its curriculum next year to provide local banks with national expertise. A training course will be organised by the faculty in co-operation with major banks in the country for this purpose, the official said.

Meanwhile, government statistics issued recently indicated that there are about 47,000 employees in the government sector, of whom 17,500 are citizens.

To redress this imbalance, the UAE cabinet had recently formed a ministerial committee. Two studies have been done stressing the need for national awareness to encourage citizens to join the private sector.

The committee further called for paying more attention to the technical, business and industrial schools and for the creation of necessary specialisations which might be required by the local market, in addition to incorporating social security system in the private sector which would be applicable to citizens working in this sector.

Meanwhile, the committee has called on the cabinet to tell local banks and insurance companies to increase the percentage of the nationals to 10 per cent of their workforce. The committee also called for co-ordination between the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and the hotel sector to also increase the number of citizens on its payrolls.

In relation to the oil sector, the committee recommended that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, including the Civil Service Council communicate with officials in the oil sector to explain the importance of recruiting national cadres in this vital sector.

Further, the committee also recommended that certain categories of work be given only to citizens such as taxi drivers, fish mongers, typing, and customs clearance.

With respect to the government sector, the committee called for gradual replacement of expatriates with citizens. To achieve this goal, the committee called for holding intensified training courses for citizens with the added recommendation that promotions will be linked with the level of involvement in such training courses.

In the meantime, the committee endorsed the study prepared by the Administrative Development Institute which calls for reducing new expatriate employment in the government sector.

In its concluding remarks, the committee said that to realise the replacement process, the country's educational policy should be reviewed and admission to the university should be on the basis of local market requirements.

4801 housing applications received

THE Director General of Kuwait's National Housing Authority (NHA) Dr Ibrahim Majed Al Shaheen said that during the year 1989/1990, the authority received about 4,801 applications for housing facilities.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the authority completed formalities of about 3,500 applicants. He added that during the month of November, 497 new applicants were received including 452 requests for updating formalities and in December 489 new applications and about 362 requests for completing formalities were also received.

Meanwhile, the official said that the authority had during the year 1989 received about 4,403 housing units and plots, including 79 houses at West Al Fintas Area, 344 houses at Al Qurain Area, 344 houses at Al Qurain Housing Project sector, B2 with 161 houses at the same project sector C2 in addition to about 823 houses at Al Qurain project sector B1, 420 houses at sector

C1, 240 houses South Al Rabiya and 828 houses at Al Jahra Area. Additionally the authority had received about 638 plots at Al Qurain Housing Project sector 5, 701 plots at Al Qurain sector F and 169 plots at Sabah Al Salem suburb.

On the other hand, the official said that the authority shall receive about 3751 housing units including 159 plots, 126 houses at Al Fintas area, 260 houses at Al Jahra, 573 houses at Al Qurain, B1, 851 at Al Qurain sector C2, 737 houses at Al Qurain A, 398 at Al Qurain B2 and 767 houses at Al Zaher housing project.

Saudi warning

RIYADH, June 4, (Kuna): Saudi Arabia has warned Iran against persisting on its "misleading" media campaign against the kingdom and said if Tehran wanted to prevent Iranians from performing the hajj (pilgrimage) it should not use Saudi Arabia as an excuse.

Superpower summit Mixed reaction in Gulf media

MANAMA, Bahrain, June 4, (AP): Press editorials in the oil-rich Gulf in their first readings Monday of the outcome of the superpower summit, oscillated between welcome and criticism of the outcome with respect to the Middle East problem.

Bahrain's Akbar Al Khaleel described Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for his "courageous and responsible" statements in warning that he would suspend the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel unless the Jewish state guaranteed they would not be settled in the occupied Arab territories.

This was a response to the Arab demands and a clear expression of the friendship that takes into consideration the

interest of its friend without waiting for pressures or threats" the paper said.

One Kuwait's English-language daily extended the praise to US President George Bush saying the two superpower leaders who signed a broad range of accords at the summit "have done a brave job in voicing an unwritten accord in opposing the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied areas. This may well be seen as a redeeming aspect of their earlier collision on Jewish immigration to Israel."

It expected Gorbachev's threat to have a "sobering effect" on Israel and said Bush's reiteration of his opposition to settling the immigrants in the occupied areas "must add to the impact of

Gorbachev's words."

It went on: "Whether or not the superpower leaders reached any major understanding on solving the Middle East conflict, they have done well to keep the conflict from further deterioration."

Others like Kuwait's radical Al Rai Al Aam, and Al Wehda of the United Arab Emirates, expressed concern about the ability of the Soviet Union to obtain the required guarantees from the Jewish state.

"Though comrade Gorbachev deserves our praise for his assertion that he will stop the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine if assurances were not made... he has been

preoccupied with obtaining the most favoured nation rights from the United States and other interests," said the Kuwaiti paper. "Gorbachev's remarks could be only for calming down Arab fears and averting their pressure."

Al Wehda flatly expected Washington to use the trade accord to arm-twist or "bring pressure to bear on Moscow over the issue, and urged the Arabs to hasten to prove to the Soviets that "their interests with the Arabs are weightier in the balance."

At the other end, papers like Saudi Arabia's Okaz and Qatar's Gulf Times saw that the superpower summit had ended without clearcut and decisive rulings on

the Middle East crisis.

"It was one more clear message to the Arab world that they have to build proper Arab solidarity to make the Arabs an effective factor in the equation of the big powers," wrote the Saudi paper.

The Qatari paper noted that Bush had stopped short of also condemning Soviet Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem, another area that Israel seized from the Arabs in the 1967 Middle East war, later annexing it.

While the US congress acknowledged unified Jerusalem as capital for Israel, all US administrations have held fast to the illegality of annexation of occupied land.



A student shakes hands with Mrs Al Ghanim (fourth left) as other school officials look on



Dr Yacoub Al Sharrah speaking at the ceremony



Above and below: some of the UAS graduates of the class of '90



Special evening for UAS students

THE Universal American School recently held commencement exercise for the graduation of Class 1990.

The ceremony, held at the Kuwait Regency Palace, was special because the graduating students were the first to complete a whole generation at the school. Out of the 78 graduates, 23 had studied at the school for the entire 14 year syllabus and 28 had studied there for at least 10 years.

Most of the 78 graduates have already been accepted in universities all around the world to study Administration, Engineering and Science.

The 9th annual commencement exercise began with the Kuwaiti National Anthem, followed by a welcome speech by Principal Raja Abu Shakra.

Riham Al Demerdash, the salutatorian, delivered a speech about her success at the UAS. This was followed by a short address by Walid Abu Shakra, the school's superintendent.

Class 1990 then stood tall as they sang the senior class song "Do you know where you are going to?"

Dr Yacoub Al Sharrah, the Undersecretary for Private Education at the Ministry of Education, praised the school's achievements.

This year's commencement address was delivered by Dr Musad Al Haroun, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education.

GCC foreign ministers meeting

Oman renews call for Gulf peace efforts

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, June 4, (AP): Omani Foreign Minister Yousef Bin Alawi said Monday that despite escalating tension, there was a good chance for reactivating the Arab-Israeli peace process and for achieving a settlement of the Iran-Iraq dispute.

Alawi spoke at the opening meeting of a foreign ministerial meeting of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council.

"If we look with increasing concern at the currently deteriorating situation in the Arab occupied territories... we still believe that the peace efforts have not run out and that the scope is wide for reactivating the peace-making process so as to preserve peace and stability in the region," he said.

He said factors contributing to the increase in tension included the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel and their possible settlement in Israeli-occupied Arab territories, Israel's iron-fist policy toward the two-and-a-half-year-old Palestinian uprising, and the stalemate in the Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

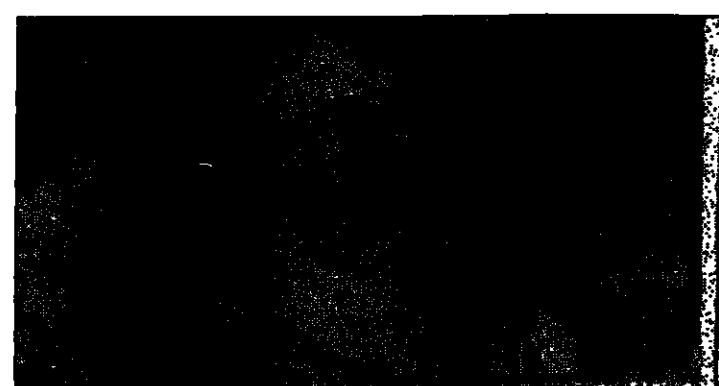
The GCC groups Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain. The alliance has sought to use close ties with the United States and the West to push for Middle East peace.

The meeting of the GCC ministers in the Saudi summer resort of Taif is aimed at co-ordinating policy in the light of an Arab summit meeting held in Baghdad, Iraq, last week.

Baghdad and Tehran appeared close to opening direct negotiations after an exchange of letters initiated in April by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein who suggested high-level face-to-face talks on neutral grounds.

"In the recent period we have had encouraging trends and positive factors... the exchange of letters between the leaderships of the two countries has paved the way for a new stage in building of confidence and scoring progress in their peace negotiations," said Alawi.

He urged that "these good efforts be bolstered and that we exert our utmost to produce the summit between the leaders of the two neighbour countries."



Yousef Bin Alawi Abdullah: negotiating

political demonstrations at the annual pilgrimage to Islam's holiest city of Makkah.

Kuna adds: The first meeting of the 35th GCC ministerial council session ended in Taif yesterday after three hours of talks on inter-Gulf co-operation.

It was presided by Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yousef Bin Alawi Abdalla. The meeting also reviewed the outcome of the emergency Arab summit held in Baghdad on May 28-30.

The council commends the outcome of the summit, especially the decision to hold Arab summits on annual basis.

Abdalla stated after the meeting. The meeting, he added, discussed a number of issues which will be tabled at the coming Arab summit slated for November in Cairo. But Abdalla did not elaborate.



Graduation certificates were distributed to a number of law officers who completed two courses. Above some of the graduates with officials.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WE have two ears and only one tongue in order that we may hear more and speak less — Diogenes, Greek philosopher (about 412 BC-323 BC).

Meet cements foundation

Pacts show ties' depth

WASHINGTON, (UPI): Individually, the accords that crowned the Bush-Gorbachev summit seem modest. Collectively, they reflect the political urgency of cementing a foundation for the post-cold war period heralded six months ago.

At the close of their storm-tossed talks at Malta, Bush and Gorbachev declared the superpowers to be poised "at the threshold of a brand new era" and the start of a "long road to a long-lasting peaceful period."

Here, they locked the starting blocks into place and took the first real steps to erase what Gorbachev described as the legacies of the cold war: "The arms race, mistrust, psychological and ideological struggle and all that."

Paradoxically, the biggest successes — promises of expanded trade and arms reductions — will have little immediate impact. What Bush and Gorbachev did most was establish markers for future advancement and a framework for broader co-operation, burying old problems while kicking new ones down the road.

It will be some time before commodity-starved Muscovites standing in line for shoes or sugar see any benefit from the trade accord signed Friday.

Business

Once implemented, it will take important but largely technical and legal steps to make it easier or safer for American firms to do business in the Soviet Union. Other hurdles to trade and investment still must be overcome, not the least of which is the lack of a convertible rouble.

The trade agreement is only a prelude, albeit a crucial one, to the real prize Gorbachev offers: coveted most-favoured-nation status, which would dramatically reduce tariffs on Soviet exports to the United States.

That boon for perestroika will require liberalized emigration laws the Soviets have promised but not yet enacted. In a convoluted series of linkages, Bush insists on passage of the emigration laws before submitting the trade agreement to Congress, which in turn could withhold its needed approval to protest the crackdown on Lithuania.

Those issues aside, the Soviets remain subject to restrictions on US government credits and credit guarantees. The economic steps now under way also have nothing to do with Western export controls on important high technology that could help modernize their economy.

In arms control, Bush and Gorbachev agreed on the major terms of a historic but neither as deep as the 50 per cent first proposed nor as far as critics on the right and left believe it could go.

At the summit, their leaders talked of "a more peaceful world" and of nuclear arms "increasingly losing their political significance," each country would be left with 8,000 to 10,000 nuclear weapons, a formidable balance of terror.

Constraints

Constraints that could most enhance strategic stability, including limits on multiple-warhead missiles and terms for a major "build-down" in nuclear weapons, were left to future negotiations in a political decision that nailing down even an incomplete treaty would provide momentum for future progress.

Similarly, the levels under discussion in negotiations on conventional forces — set before the full impact of political change in Europe had been felt — are far higher than those expected to be necessary in the not-so-distant future.

Again, however, short-term results have been placed ahead of long-term goals on the theory an agreement in place provides impetus for follow-on talks that hold a far larger potential for redrawing the map of Europe and producing the hefty peace dividend sought by both sides.

The summit marked the latest and perhaps biggest step yet in a diplomatic transition that began with the first Reagan-Gorbachev meeting in November 1985 and has been measured in large part until now by progress in arms control.

Incrementally, the superpowers have moved away from the polemics of the "evil empire" days and confrontation over "Star Wars" to discussion of differences, exploration of common ground and now active engagement across a full range of mutual concerns.

Forecasts

Despite his own forecasts of tension over German unification and Lithuania, Bush chose merely to state those problems for the record and then move on, avoiding outward signs of conflict in the name of prudence.

Gorbachev, described by a senior US official in advance of the summit as a man ready to deal, came primed with political bravado to rebut speculation of his imminent demise, looking and sounding strong but nevertheless embattled.

At a breakfast meeting Friday with congressional leaders, he almost pleaded for a bilateral trade agreement, but pointedly said he was "not asking for a free ride" from the West even in face of monumental economic challenges.

"For us, it would be humiliating if we were to beg for something from you," he told his American guests, "and, of course, hopeless."

As Gorbachev noted Friday night over dinner at the Soviet Embassy, the summit demonstrated "that our policy of moving from understanding to constructive interaction is bearing fruit" since Malta.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1716 — Treaty of Westminster is signed between England and Holy Roman Empire.
- 1741 — Treaty of Breslau is signed between France and Prussia to partition Holy Roman Empire.
- 1827 — Turkish forces capture the Acropolis and enter Athens, Greece.
- 1862 — France and Annam sign treaty of Saigon whereby France annexes Cochinchina.
- 1873 — Sultan of Zanzibar, under British pressure, abolishes slave markets and export of slaves.
- 1885 — British establish protectorate over Niger River region in Africa.
- 1900 — British forces take Pretoria, South Africa.
- 1926 — Anglo-Turkish agreement on Mosul, with most of area assigned to Iraq.
- 1945 — Allied Control Commission assumes control throughout Germany, which is divided into four occupation zones.
- 1965 — US State Department acknowledges publicly for first time that US ground troops in South Vietnam are engaging in combat in defence of key installations.
- 1967 — Six-day Israeli-Arab war begins, ceasefire efforts are stalled in United Nations.
- 1968 — US Senator Robert F. Kennedy is shot and mortally wounded in Los Angeles at age 42.
- 1972 — First United Nations World Conference on Human Environment opens in Stockholm, Sweden; Greece and China announce establishment of diplomatic relations.
- 1975 — Suez Canal reopens to international shipping for first time since 1967 Arab-Israeli war.
- 1988 — Three railroad boxcars packed with industrial explosives blow up near Gorky in Soviet Union, killing 68 people and tossing automobiles in the air.
- 1989 — Soviet congress appeals for end to ethnic rioting in Uzbekistan.

Soviet president pleads for time

System to be devised to save union

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Mikhail Gorbachev pleaded for time during the Washington summit — to reform the Soviet economy, to devise a new system to save his country's crumbling union.

But US experts say time is something that is fast running out for the beleaguered Soviet leader despite the international — if not the domestic — boost his American visit provided.

"I don't think we have ever tackled tasks like this in the history of our country. I don't know whether anybody else has been able to resolve so many tasks within such a short period of time," Gorbachev told a press conference with US President George Bush at the end of their four-day summit with US President George Bush at the end of their four-day summit.

Understanding

He implored for understanding. For one thing, he said his government was working on reforming its federation to expand the rights of increasingly restive republics who are demanding more autonomy if not, like Lithuania, outright independence.

"A full federation is something that we are in vital need of (and) in the next few days there's to be a federation council meeting convened to consider specific steps, dates and ways of resolving this particular problem in specific, concrete terms," he said.

This process may result in "different levels of federative ties" among the Soviet Union's 15 republics, he predicted.

But if any republic insists on outright secession, it must follow the constitutional process and this is likely to take six or seven years, Gorbachev said.

He specifically mentioned Lithuania, against whom Moscow imposed economic sanctions as penalty for declaring independence.

Four months ago, when independence movements were less advanced, a senior US official told Reuters he believed Gorbachev could yet devise a formula to keep the Soviet Union together — except maybe for the Baltics.

The Baltics, claimed by Moscow in a 1940 Hitler-Stalin pact, are seen by many in the West as likely to eventually succeed in breaking away regardless of what Gorbachev does.

As for creating a new system that could appease other republics and prevent them from also seceding, "that was easier to accomplish several months ago," said Soviet expert Dmitri Simes of the Carnegie endowment for international peace.

"A confederation (formula) would have to be looser today and with every day, it is becoming more difficult" to devise, he told Reuters.

With Gorbachev's chief political rival, Boris Yeltsin, now president of the Russian Republic, even that central core of the Soviet Union is beginning to demand greater sovereignty.

Yeltsin recently threatened to sign a trade pact with Lithuania, and Gorbachev on Sunday sharply criticised him as likely to complicate efforts to reform the Soviet system.

Remove

The MFN status would remove tariffs from Soviet goods and give a major impetus to a sagging economy, in need of

Gorbachev "seems to have a blind spot" on independence movements" and is now faced with the dilemma of people wanting more than he wants to give them," Madeleine Albright, president of the Centre for National Policy, told Reuters.

Washington should want a peaceful solution to the ethnic and political unrest. A breakup in the Soviet Union could bring "massive instability" to a key region, she said.

The fear that chaos could be unleashed may be behind Bush's handling of Lithuania with Gorbachev. Bush reiterated US non-recognition of Moscow's incorporation of the Baltics but was restrained in his disagreement.

On the economy, American critics, including congressmen who met Gorbachev, urged swifter moves towards a market system.

The Soviet leader repeatedly resisted this, saying his country, in the midst of dramatic change, had to

move slowly to create a market structure from scratch.

More compellingly, he argued, "people are scared" by the changes wrought, including higher prices. But he insisted nothing would stop the reforms.

Bush has made a strong point of wanting Gorbachev to succeed and the summit seemed designed to give him a boost.

But analysts like Simes say Washington is "making an inordinate investment" in Gorbachev while dismissing new leaders like Yeltsin.

He and many others predict Gorbachev — sooner rather than later — will have to accept a coalition government in which power with Yeltsin and others must be shared.

Under such a scenario, Bush may find his welcome in Moscow at the next superpower summit somewhat less cordial, they say.

'Exodus' may be halted

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has threatened to halt the great new "exodus" of Jews from the Soviet Union, but if he does he may destroy his own hopes of expanded trade with the United States.

Gorbachev lashed out at Israel on Sunday as he ended his summit with President George Bush. He warned the Jewish state he wanted assurances that Soviet emigrants would not settle in occupied Arab territories. If the assurances were not given he warned that the Soviet Union could put a brake on exit visas.

He said he hoped Israel would heed his words and "act in a wise fashion."

But Bush, at the same news conference, made a different kind of linkage, one that could have dire effects on the Soviet economy.

He said the Soviet Union must pass a liberalised emigration law if it expects to get Most-Favoured-Nation trading (MFN) status from the United States.

The MFN status would remove tariffs from Soviet goods and give a major impetus to a sagging economy, in need of

something to revive it. MFN could also be an entry card for the Soviet Union into the world economy.

But to get MFN, the Soviet Union must continue to let Jews leave the Soviet Union and pass a law that clearly states that they and others who want to go can do so freely.

Thousands of Soviet Jews are leaving the Soviet Union because of fear of anti-Semitism or hopes for a better life. About 70,000 left last year and about 10,000 a month are leaving this year.

The United States, which for years accepted Soviet Jews when they were only able to trickle out, has now put a cap on the numbers that can enter.

And so, the tens of thousands that are now leaving are mainly going to Israel.

The Israeli government sees them as a source of strength while the Arab countries charge that the Soviet Jews will settle in the occupied territories and drive Palestinians from their homes as the Jewish state creates a "greater Israel."

The number of Soviet Jews is a matter of conjecture. The last official census puts the number at 1.8 million but Jewish sources say there could be up to three million.

In a country with a history of anti-Semitism, many Jews are afraid to put Jewish in their internal passports, the sources say.

Many Soviet Jews know little about the religion of their forefathers and for years their community was known as "the Jews of silence." Many waited decades for permission to leave, many others were simply not allowed to leave.

Permission to leave was often a barometer of the state of the cold war.

The last significant exodus of Jews was in the 1970s during the period of superpower détente between Richard Nixon and Leonid Brezhnev.

Gorbachev said he had come under criticism from Arab nations for freeing up emigration and that there were also domestic critics who wanted a freeze.

Arab spokesmen praised his news conference comments but Jewish spokesmen expressed their concern.

Israel says it has no policy of sending Soviet Jews to the occupied territories although emigrants were free to go where they wished.

Art Buchwald

Real estate no longer fun game

REAL estate is not the fun game it used to be. In the '80s everyone talked about making a killing with their houses, and there was hardly a man or woman alive who didn't own a house that had scribbled in value. In addition, all the great homes that were built with borrowed money are now going begging in a market that most S&Ls believed would last forever.

Everyone has a real estate story. My cousin Flo's tale more or less sums up what people are experiencing now that the boom times are over. She called me a few months ago to tell me she was about to sell her house and move to a leisure garden apartment in New Jersey.

"How much are you asking?" I wanted to know.

"Well, I paid \$45,000 for it, so I've priced it at \$210,000."

"Could you tell me how you arrived at that figure?"

"The real estate person said that I should be able to get \$150,000. My son thought that \$200,000 was about right, and I added an extra \$10,000 as icing on the cake."

Sounds

"It sounds good to me. I wish you luck."

Flo telephoned a month later and told me, "Nobody wants to buy my house. The market is dead. What shall I do?"

"How about lowering the price?"

"If I do that I'll lose money on it. I am not going to let some bargain chiseler steal it from me."

"I agree. If you lower the price it will only be a sign of weakness."

The following month she was on the phone again.

"I've decided to advertise it for \$200,000. I'll eat the \$10,000 loss because sometimes in business you have to take it on the chin to survive."

"I believe that you have done a very wise thing. You are now competitive with all the other \$45,000 houses in the neighbourhood. Let me know if you sell it. I'll have an announcement placed in the Wall Street Journal."

Flo called again in three weeks. "It isn't moving. Bloomfield, N.J., is in a real estate wasteland — it's worse than Chernobyl."

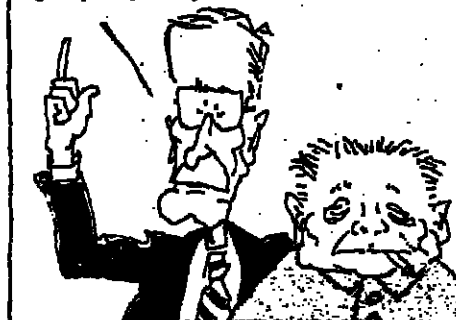
"There's only one course of action, Flo, and that is to lower the asking price even further."

"Are you suggesting that I sell my \$45,000 house

LET'S REVIEW THE LIBERATING EFFECTS OF CAPITALISM



FIRST — FREE MARKETS FOSTER DEMOCRACY



SECOND — IF DEMOCRACY FAILS TO FLOURISH...



... YOU STILL HAVE THE FREE MARKETS!



for \$160,000?"

"I'm just advising you to do what the big guys on Wall Street would do in your place. They would take their losses and get out of Bloomfield as fast as they could."

"If I follow your advice I'll lose \$50,000. Life can't be that unfair."

"Then keep the house and hope that the price will rise."

"No. I'll sell it for \$160,000, which means I'm going to be the laughingstock of the Garden State Parkway."

"If you don't sell it, you could always give it back to the savings and loan people and let them deal with it. How big a mortgage did you get on it?"

"One hundred forty thousand dollars two years ago."

"Well, call them up and inform them that you would like to refinance the house."

"I can't. They are no longer in business. It seems that they kept making million-dollar loans to people who were buying \$45,000 houses."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Letters to the editor

Race relations

SIR: This is in reference to the letter you recently published: Human values.

The strictures levelled at Messrs Tebbit and Powell were inequitable. In defence of Mr T and P, I quote from an article in The Field.

"The race relations industry tells us that British pride is offensive, but patriotism in others is virtuous."

I am English, and proud of it.

There are many settlers in UK (and elsewhere) who have no wish to be British, other than convenience — they establish — ghettoes above the law of the host country, disregard fundamentals of British society, flaunt activities that are unacceptable to most British citizens, raise offspring not to integrate but to rather nurture the seeds of discontent, disrupt and impede justice of the existing system, a system wrought over cen-

turies — as for applauding anything British, that is furthest from their goals.

Latif is apparently an admirer of both Mandela and Kinnock, who seem to be in search of the elusive — Utopia.

To dream is fine and I admire ideals — but this avoiding reality, reality is events in Europe, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, South Africa, etc, not pie in the sky theorems.

You may lead a horse to water but you cannot make it drink.

World-wide the British gave the English language (no small gift), to be used to communicate, it is the language of commerce, shipping, the air, it enables many to learn from the tomes of ancient and modern philosophy, both technical and otherwise.

Yet there are those among us who would wish British schools to be further dragged down by learning tribal tongues, as a principal. Indeed a

retrogressive step.

For Latif to claim nothing racially catastrophic has ever taken place in the UK — try telling that to P.C. Blakelock's widow, and a would-be US president seeks to exonerate the perpetrators by making famous speeches!!!

By comparison Messrs Tebbit and Powell come out very well.

Unfortunately, the ones who cry — racist — are, for the most part immigrants with a chip on their shoulder — about empire builders etc. In fact any excuse they feel fits the bill, quoting class, colour and creed.

Finally, one cannot compare the USA with the UK — one is an overcrowded island, the other a vast continent.

Furthermore, I feel Latif is no stranger to the word pontification, but to enlarge on that is not necessary.

Worfield, Alameda

Summit

Germany in Nato unnerves Soviet Union

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): On the third day of the superpower summit, the Soviet Union threw out some new ideas and repeated some old arguments but still failed to accept the idea of a unified Germany as a member of Nato.

In a series of briefings and interviews, Soviet officials again stressed the deep anguish they said their nation felt about the prospect of Germany, their pre-1945 enemy, joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, their post-1945 enemy.

"Nato... continues to be a military political organization which is looking for an enemy and the obvious choice is the Soviet Union," said Vitaly Churkin, a Soviet Foreign Ministry adviser.

Ideas

One of the new ideas, which US officials seemed to think was merely an old package with a new wrapping, came from Valentin Falin, a former envoy to West Germany and head of the International Department of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee.

He suggested creating a pan-European security council with a multinational peacekeeping force to head off the risk of another war on the continent.

He also said Moscow would consider a united Germany in Nato on a temporary basis if Washington agreed to let the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe become the final arbiter on Germany's military status.

It was an idea unlikely to appeal to either the United States or Germany, much less allies like Britain and France. They have no objection to building up the 35-nation CSCE into a real organisation but say it must exist alongside and not instead of Nato.

"Germany's alliance affiliation is a question for the Germans to decide. The Germans have made it clear that they want to remain in Nato. We believe their full membership in the alliance is the best guarantee of peace and stability for all Europeans, including Soviets," said Secretary of State James Baker in Friday briefing.

Troops

The West is prepared to sugar the pill, by allowing Soviet troops to stay in Germany for as long as five or six years and promising not to deploy its own troops in former East German territory.

At the same time, talks could begin on further reducing troop levels in Europe, including German troops. CSCE could become an organisation with a secretariat and a role of observing the fairness of elections and military exercises.

There is also the lure of substantial economic help for the Soviet Union from a united Germany.

The main Soviet argument against this is emotional: the Russian people suffered too much and sacrificed too many lives in two world wars to accept Germany within Nato.

"Our people have survived two wars started by Germany this century. Twenty-seven million people died in the Soviet Union during the Second World War, and 18 million more were injured and crippled," said Yevgeny Primakov, a member of the Soviet Presidential Council.

"If there are people who would believe (in) German membership in Nato, an alliance which is still widely perceived inside the Soviet Union as pursuing confrontational policies with the Soviet Union, our public opinion will not find it easy to get reconciled with this," he said.

QUOTE ME

"When a few are ready to undertake a cooperative action they should go ahead and leave the door open. Don't give the veto to the reluctant. The North which is strong and needs unity less than the South is absolutely determined to work together, and the South which is weak is not working together and is actually discouraged by the north from working together." Nyerere of Tanzania to a G-15 summit in Malaysia.

"It was just another game in the playoffs for us. Maybe their youth and inexperience showed. We felt confident coming into the game." — Isaiah Thomas of Detroit after the Pistons have pipped the Chicago Bulls for the NBA finals with the Trail Blazers.

"In our preparation phase, we tried several solutions. If we had to play tomorrow I would know who to send onto the field. I know Yugoslavia well. Their strongest player is Stojkovic, who may become one of the stars of the World Cup. But I don't intend to take any special measures to control him." — West German manager Franz 'the Kaiser' Beckenbauer.

"There was a need for cooperation and working together — instead there was a confrontation." — Gorbachev said of Yeltsin's elevation.

"Mr Mandela's visit will give the Canadian government an opportunity to review the prospects for peaceful change in South Africa. Canadians will have a chance to celebrate Mr Mandela's release and rededicate themselves to his life-long struggle against apartheid." — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's office announced.

"Thirty-five per cent of the work in our companies is geared toward export to the Soviet Union. We cannot change that overnight. For political and economic reasons we will have to maintain this for some time in the future." — East German Premier De Maiziere.

"We have said for a long time that we want better relations with Iran. That requires progress on a number of issues, including the 'fatwa' (death sentence) and the hostages." — A British Foreign Office spokesman.

"We've known in our religion people doing things which are deeply offensive to some of us... and that is what has happened in Islam." — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said last year.

"Some players didn't play as well as they're capable of, but you have to take your lumps and move on. Maybe the pressure got to us. There was some nervousness. Nobody besides (Bill) Cartwright has been in this situation. You could see their killer instinct. They had us back on our heels. They overwhelmed us."

Bull's Michael 'Air' Jordan after a drubbing by the Detroit Pistons.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Public offer set to begin June 8

Frankoparis shares entering the Paris Stock Exchange

PARIS, June 4, (Reuters): Shares of Frankoparis, a Kuwaiti-French real-estate company for commerce and industry, will be issued at 190 francs (\$33.33) apiece at the Paris Stock Exchange, it was announced here by Frankoparis.

The public offer, at the "second market" of the Paris Stock Market will begin on June 8.

A total of 533,000 shares representing 9 per cent of the group's 600 million franc (\$105.26 million) capital will be sold to private owners.

These Frankoparis shares entering the Paris Stock Exchange second market will join the convertible bond

issued in 1987 and quoted since then.

Frankoparis, a flourishing real-estate company, was set up in 1984 at the initiative of the Kuwaiti-French Bank (KFB), and French partners.

The leading Kuwaiti partner is the Public Institution for Social Security (Piss), which has 16.67 of the shares, and which will retain 15.2 per cent after the public offer.

Other Kuwaiti investors include the KFB with 3.63 per cent of the shares, followed by Kuwait Real Estate Company 2.83 per cent, Pearl Investment Company 2.83 per cent and Pearl of Kuwait Real Estate Company 0.67 per cent.

The major shareholder in Frankoparis is Air France with its ground staff retirement scheme, Caisse de Retraite du Personnel au Sol de La Compagnie Nationale Air France, which holds 62.1 per cent, will retain 56.6 per cent after the public offer.

The other French investor is Compagnie Hénin with 10 per cent and the remaining 1.3 per cent of the shares are in private hands.

The major acquisition of Frankoparis was the Vandamme-Montparnasse complex, in 1986, in the 14th Arrondissement of Paris.

The site include after transformation works the posh 950-room Hotel

Meridien Montparnasse with a congress centre to accommodate 2,000 people, 8,000 square metres of offices, a 11,000 square metre shopping centre and a car park below the complex.

Major restructuring works were carried out in the car park, which can accommodate 2,289 vehicles and with direct access to the TGV Atlantique (high speed train) railway station, through an underground tunnel to be built by the French Railways.

Frankoparis officials said that the group will pursue its activities in the real-estate sector mainly in Paris and its suburbs, with plans to invest in major regional cities, especially sites well

"irrigated" by modern means of transportation such as airports, transit centres, motorways and TGV.

They indicated that Frankoparis has also plans to develop its leasing operations at a cost of about 100 million francs (\$17.5 million) per year.

Frankoparis has already launched three leasing operations, two of which in co-operation with other sicomis, and, at present, the total amount of outstanding leasing operations is reported to be 51 million francs (\$8.9 million).

They added that within that framework, Frankoparis will be investing an

estimated 400 million francs (\$70.17 million) over the next five years.

Frankoparis, which real-estate assets are estimated at 3 billion francs (\$50.52 billion), posted a net income of 539,167.29 francs (\$94,590.75) for the financial year ending Dec. 31, 1989, compared with 201,310.22 francs (\$35,317.58) in 1988.

The group is anticipating the Vandamme-Montparnasse complex to generate revenues of about 73 million francs (\$12.8 million) in 1990, 86.3 million (\$15.17 million) in 1991 and over 100 million francs (\$17.5 million) by 1995.

Gold down Political factors support the dollar

LONDON, June 4, (Reuters): The dollar ended higher across the board in Europe today, drawing strength from its role as a safe-haven in times of political uncertainty, dealers said.

They said dollar buying was encouraged by disappointment at the inconclusive outcome of the summit between US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and by continued pressure on the West German mark.

The dollar is not fundamentally strong but political factors are supporting the currency," said Masaru Igarashi, chief dealer at the Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank in London.

The dollar closed at 1.6955 marks compared to Friday's finishing 1.6888 and at 152.95 yen against 151.20. It was also up against the pound sterling and Swiss and French francs.

Dealers said the market was disappointed the summit did not yield agreement on a united Germany's role in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) or on Soviet economic sanctions against the rebel state of Lithuania.

Gold bullion closed near levels just above a four-year low, at \$350.30 a troy ounce, down from \$355.75 an ounce an 8-1/2 month low. It had opened lower as its weakness triggered pre-determined price thresholds in the United States on Friday.

Concern that the Soviet Union would increase its sales of the precious metal to bring in hard currency also undermined sentiment, bullion dealers said.

The currency market was quiet in morning trade with much of Europe, including Frankfurt, Zurich and Paris, on holiday for Whitsun. But activity picked up later when New York opened.

Economy improves

ISLAMABAD, June 4, (Reuters): Pakistan's economy has made substantial gains this year but is likely to fall short of targets set by the International Monetary Fund under an economic reform programme.

The government economic survey, released today ahead of Thursday's budget, estimates economic growth at 5.2 per cent for the year ending June 30, 0.6 per cent below target but above last year's 4.8.

The current-account deficit is set to decline from \$1.93 billion in 1988-89 to 1.7 billion this year, but Western diplomats said the government would fail to meet a key target set by the IMF for reducing the budget deficit.

Kuwait stock market may awake from slumber

Govt tries to reinject life into share trading

KUWAIT, June 4, (Reuters): Kuwait's stock market, slumbering uneasily for eight years after a predecessor collapsed, may awake this year and take its place as the oldest, most active in the Gulf.

The grand marble and glass exchange echoes more to the rattle of coffee cups and chat among brokers in flowing white robes rather than to frenzied calls for bids and offers. The call to prayer from nearby mosques, grows any noise of trading.

But daily volume at the market is respectably high and the government is preparing several measures this year to reinject life into trading of the 51 companies and eight banks listed.

The bank sector is the most active with about half of all shares traded. Total capitalisation of Kuwaiti stocks is about KD3 billion are also traded.

Trading over the past year has been sluggish with the All Share Kuwait Company index at 39.36 on May 23, almost unchanged from 37.90 exactly a year ago.

Both the market and the government have never forgotten the crash of the unofficial Souk Al Manakh exchange in 1982, which left \$90 billion of debt, led to years of court cases, One speculator at the time found his way into the Guinness Book of World Records with debts of \$20 billion.

"It will take 20 to 25 years for a

full recovery from the crash. If it had not been for the government, this market would have crashed too," said Farouq Sultan, analyst at investment consultants Amwal Company.

But "the market averages about KD3 million (\$10.3 million) a day. This is not bad, he added.

The government now holds about 30 per cent of all shares on the market and does not allow them to be traded. This effectively checks supply and props up prices, said Jassem Al Saadoun, general manager of Al Shall Economic Consultants.

Some companies emerged from the 1982 crash debt-ridden but given a new lease on life by

the government's support for their shares.

But authorisation for new unit trusts which would also allow non-Kuwaitis to invest, plans to computerise the exchange, and flotation of the state's stake in 13 smaller firms which are not yet listed, promises better times ahead for investors.

The unit trusts will be permitted to invest not only in Kuwait listed companies but also in real estate and overseas markets.

Another new law will make it easier for companies to get a listing. This should include dumping an old rule that forces firms which want a listing to first liquidate themselves and restructure, local brokers said.

Oil output

NICOSIA, Cyprus, June 4, (AP): Iran's oil output reached an estimated 3.43 million barrels a day in May, an increase of more than 400,000 barrels over the previous month, the Middle East Economic Survey reported today.

Prices decline

LONDON, June 4, (Reuters): Opec has cut back some of the surplus that sent prices down as much as 30 per cent this year but is still pumping far more oil than the market really wants.

A Reuters monthly survey of official, industry and shipping sources completed today estimated output in May was down since April by only 430,000 barrels per day (bpd) to average 23.22 million.

Petroleum Intelligence Weekly (PIW), a New York-based industry newsletter, put it higher at 23.5 million — PIW also had a higher number in April. A May 3 agreement by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries had aimed to cut the total volume of crude produced by its 13 members closer to 22 million bpd to try to get supply more in line with demand.

Prices have declined sharply in recent weeks, reflecting Opec's inability to resolve disputes over market share to fashion a leak-proof quota agreement.

Cargoes of North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded crude oil, were today quoted around \$15.50 per barrel for prompt loading — down from \$23 in January.

According to the Opec president, Sadek Boussena of Algeria, no independent assessment of the group's production will achieve "photographic

accuracy."

A Reuters estimate for its May output at 1.85 million bpd (including a neutral zone shared with Saudi Arabia) was provisional. Some sources put Kuwait slightly lower but others said it was unchanged from April's 1.9 million barrels — against its Opec monthly quota of 1.50 million.

Either way, the Kuwaitis say their production is coming down gradually and will be seen to be lower in June.

Another imponderable is how far Iran — below quota in April — raised volume in May to fill the gap left by the Saudis' cut.

Reuters put Iran at 3.1 million bpd in May, up 100,000. But several sources were sure it averaged at least 3.2 million and the Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), another specialist newsletter, said it touched 3.4 million.

On the other hand, some Gulf-based informants doubted its fragmented oil fields could maintain more than three for very long after an apparent slump late April-early May.

Some monitors think that modest cuts by Kuwait, the UAE and some others could in June bring the Opec total down to around 22.75 million bpd, especially if Iran falters.

Oil output

NICOSIA, Cyprus, June 4, (AP): Iran's oil output reached an estimated 3.43 million barrels a day in May, an increase of more than 400,000 barrels over the previous month, the Middle East Economic Survey reported today.

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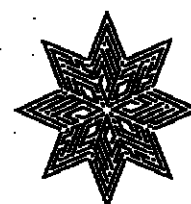
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Near-full employment by the turn of the century

Indian planners map out strategy to reach goals

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, June 4: Indian planners are charting out a strategy to reach a goal that could prove daunting at the best of times — near-full employment by the turn of the century.

The ruling National Front has already committed itself to give constitutional guarantee to the right to work and the Planning Commission has decided to aim at three per cent growth in employment over the next ten years — a rate that is considered necessary to achieve the goal.

Let's take a look at the magnitude of the problem. At the beginning of the eighth plan (1990-95), the backlog of unemployment in the country is estimated at 28 million.

This figure includes 16 million people who are unemployed on the weekly status basis and another 12 million who are severely underemployed.

Of the 16 million unemployed, 12 million are men and four million women. Ten million of them live in rural areas and the rest in urban centres.

The labour force is projected to increase by about 37 million during 1990-95 and another 41 million during 1995-2000. This means that the total number of people needing employment would be 65 million in 1990-95 and 106 million in the second half of the

decade. Employment growth in the aggregate over the estimated employment of 300 million in 1990 would have to be about four per cent per annum if the goal of full employment is to be reached by the end of the eighth plan and over three per cent per annum if it is to be attained by the end of the decade, the Planning Commission has worked out.

Given the past trends and future prospects, it has come to the conclusion that it would only be realistic to aim at this goal by the year 2000.

Kerala has the highest unemployment rate (unemployment as a percentage of labour force) at 21 per cent, followed by Tamil Nadu (10 per cent), West Bengal (eight), Haryana (7.5), Andhra Pradesh (seven per cent) and Orissa (6.5), according to a study by the commission.

Other states with an unemployment rate higher than five per cent were Gujarat, Rajasthan, Assam, Punjab and Karnataka. On the other hand, Madhya Pradesh with 2.86 per cent and Uttar Pradesh with 3.44 per cent were the states with the lowest unemployment rates.

In terms of volume of unemployment, Tamil Nadu is at the top, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

The study points out that growth of employment over the past two decades has, on

an average, been lower than the rate of growth in the labour force, leading to an increasing backlog of unemployment. More significantly, the employment content of economic growth has been steadily declining, the report says.

Other highlights of the report are: The slowdown in employment growth and potential has been particularly rapid in agriculture and in organised industry. Urban employment has grown at a much faster rate than rural employment.

Within the rural areas, non-agricultural employment has grown much faster than employment in agriculture.

The central thrust of the country's eighth plan now under formulation — will be employment, which will be consciously built into the development strategy. The aim is to ensure that growth is mainly derived from the sectors and sub-sectors with high employment intensity.

The strategy now being discussed within the commission will have, as one of its major elements, a rapid and geographically diversified growth of agriculture. It also speaks of diversification of agriculture into non-staple high value crops.

An appropriate support and policy framework for the growth of non-agricultural, especially manufacturing, activities in rural areas is being worked out.

Enterprise law adopted

MOSCOW, June 4, (UPI): The Soviet parliament passed a law on enterprises today that gives co-operative and individual businesses the same legal status as state-owned companies.

The new law, which takes effect Jan. 1, 1991, gives all enterprises more control over their profits and calls for a uniform tax system for businesses.

The law provides equal conditions for economic activities of enterprises of various types — state-run, lease-holding, collective, co-operative and individual, the official Tass News Agency said.

Parliament passed the law on enterprises as President Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reform adviser struggled to defend planned price increases that are another part of the perestroika reforms.

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Michael Caine in *A Shock To The System*.

Greenhouse effect out of control in Brazil

Floram to combat global warming

By Stephen Powell

SAO PAULO, (Reuters) — Brazil's scientists have drawn up a plan to combat the greenhouse effect by planting some 200 million trees. They calculate that the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by 115 billion tonnes over the past 40 years.

The \$20 billion project, which has the backing of Brazil's pulp and paper industry, is the brainchild of scholars at Sao Paulo University's Institute of Advanced Studies.

Science and Technology Secretary Jose Goldemberg is trying to sell the idea internationally and obtain funding from other countries.

With climate change now firmly established as one of the main items on the international agenda, the scientists believe they have a chance of securing the necessary funds.

Professor Aziz Ab'Saber, one of the main architects of the project, stresses that only a handful of countries have the space to accommodate such a huge "carbon sink" — scientific jargon for a forest that can absorb large quantities of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

"Brazil is one of the few countries in the world which possesses enough physical space to develop a large-scale reforestation programme without prejudice to other activities," Ab'Saber said in a report outlining the so-called "Floram" project.

Floram, short for "Forests for the Environment," envisions the planting of both native and introduced tree species over a total of

201,000 sq km.

The trees would be planted in at least 28 different areas, largely in southeastern Brazil. Little planting is proposed for the Amazon.

"We left the Amazon out for obvious reasons," said Ab'Saber. "It still has about 90 per cent of its forests."

Ab'Saber said the plan was intended to fulfil several objectives — providing raw material for Brazil's paper and pulp industry, fighting global warming and improving local environmental conditions.

For example, Floram contains proposals for planting in the region of Alegrete, in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, which is treated by creeping desertification.

It also urges more trees for big Brazilian cities, such as Sao Paulo, a vast metropolis of 17 million people, most of it desperately short of greenery.

Floram is not without controversy, however.

While Science and Technology Secretary Goldemberg strongly supports the plan, Environment Secretary Jose Lutzenberger has not warmed to it.

"It (Floram) is a very good, serious, plan, but one which Professor Lutzenberger doesn't like," Goldemberg said in an interview with the newspaper O Globo.

Lutzenberger, Brazil's best-known ecological activist, has dismissed the plan as "technocratic," dismissing some of his colleagues in the environmental movement.

One of the authors of Floram, civil engineer Werner Zulauf, lasted just two weeks as head of the government's environment institute, known as Ibama, after he clashed with Lutzenberger on the reforestation programme.

At \$20 billion, the price tag for Floram is low by contemporary standards of spending on the environment.

The United States spends more than \$80 billion a year on environmental programmes, mostly private money.

However, while the Floram figure could be considered fairly modest, given the importance of the plan's aims, environmentalists still wonder whether the money will be found.

"The problem is who will put money in Brazil at the moment," Fernando Gabeira, leader of Brazil's Green Party, told Reuters. "Europe is very absorbed in 1992 (European Community integration) and the United States is concerned with its own modernisation because of Japan."

One of the chief aims of Floram would be to ease pressure on the Amazon rainforests, increasingly exploited by loggers.

It was the spectacular fires set by farmers to extend pastures which first created the Amazon into a major environmental issue around the world.

These huge fires may soon become a thing of the past, environmentalists say, but they warn that the logger's chainsaw could be the next big threat to the Amazon.

One leading forestry expert, Mauro Victor, who contributed to the Floram plan, said that government issued 4,000 permits last year for logging in the Amazon. He said unofficial logging probably ran at twice the level of officially sanctioned logging.

"The government admits the situation is out of control," he said. "The fires in Amazonia are being replaced by a far more subtle method of destruction and more difficult to detect. But the damage is identical."

Michael Caine's no loser

By Frank Durham

HE'S 58 now but Cockney superstar Michael Caine shows no sign of letting up. And in his latest movie the easy-going Oscar winner gets to play a ruthless executive who is prepared to do anything to get to the top... even kill.

In *A Shock To The System*, Caine plays advertising executive Graham Marshall who turns to murder after a much younger and aggressive colleague is promoted in his place.

Burdened with a nagging wife and a monumental mortgage, he is frantic and when a beggar starts harrasing him in the subway, Graham pushes him out of the way, accidentally knocking him off the platform and into the path of an on-coming train.

Although he escapes unnoticed, Graham is at first horrified but then concludes other such "accidents" could lead him on the road to success at last.

An electrical "accident" in the house while he's away on business rids him of his incessantly complaining wife forever. And after setting himself up in a trendy bachelor pad in Manhattan, he becomes romantically involved with Stella, a junior executive (played by Elizabeth McGovern).

When Graham sets up a boat "accident" which kills his still-ascending yuppie rival, the path to the top seems clear... until Stella suspects the truth and finds herself in danger.

Surprisingly, Michael Caine claims he likes the character of the murderous advertising executive. He says: "This film is an extremely funny nightmare."

"I like Graham Marshall. We've all thought at one time or



Swoosie Kurz plays Michael Caine's incessantly complaining wife who meets with an electrical "accident".

another, I'll kill that guy. I can do that job better." But, of course, we never do.

"My character does. He's a victim, you see. All psychotics are, really the reason they kill somebody is because something's been done to them. Look at Graham. What do they do to him in the office? They pass him over... for a younger man. And younger is not necessarily better. Very often, it's worse."

Caine was impressed by the script of *A Shock To The System*. "It's very strange and it captured my attention immediately. I'd been reading loads of scripts, one

right after the other, and suddenly I read this one, I said, 'Wait a minute!'

It's a very funny nightmare, quite frightening but extremely funny. What attracted me to it more than anything else is that I have never seen a movie quite like it.

"Graham is a victim and he knows it. I've played a lot of sympathetic villains and Graham becomes one — are paranoid. They think of themselves as victims, and the reason they kill somebody is because they per-

ceive somebody to have done them a wrong."

His character may be an unsuccessful executive but, when it comes to the business in real life, Caine could show some of these yuppies a thing or two.

In America, he has invested in bowling alleys and shopping malls while in Britain he has concentrated in putting money into the cinema. But perhaps his most famous and financially rewarding investment has been Langan's, the London restaurant.

His original £25,000 investment in the seventies is now reputed to be worth £1.5 million. He says, "Penny for penny, it's been the best investment I've ever made." He adds: "You have to take a business-like approach — I realised everyone else around me was. So I decided I wasn't going to be the only one making films for art."

Yet, unlike his character in *A Shock To The System*, Caine has never been ruthlessly ambitious. He says: "I didn't have to claw my way to the top in a jungle or tread on anybody's toes or take anything from anyone. I never felt the necessity. You have to live with your own principles first, and then worry about what other people may think afterwards."

Caine has made almost 70 movies but he has no plans to ease his workload. In the upcoming thriller *Bullseye*, he co-stars with his friend Roger Moore.

And he is hoping to team up with mates Bob Hoskins and Phil Collins. "It's got to be a great story and it would have to be a comedy," he says. "It couldn't be a serious piece with the three of us. When you see the height difference between and the other two, I think it might be quite funny."

Traffic slow on Danube dream canal

By John West

CONSTANTIA, Romania. (Reuters) — Nicolae Ceausescu said it would last as long as the planet and make Romania visible from the moon.

But six years after it was opened by Ceausescu, who was overthrown and executed last December, Romania's Danube-black sea canal is operating at about 30 per cent of capacity.

The 65 km (40 mile) stretch from Cernavoda on the Danube to Romania's main Black Sea port of Constanta, which cuts nearly 400 km (250 miles) off the annual course between the two cities, has an annual capacity of 30 million tonnes of shipping.

But by 1989 actual shipping had only reached 25.5 million tonnes.

The canal, first proposed by Romanian politician Ion Ionescu de la Brad in 1850, has been a long-cherished national aspiration. In 1949 the then newly-installed communist regime started a project, using political dissidents to dig out a channel by hand, but abandoned it three years later.

Work began again in 1976 under Ceausescu, who turned it into a prestige project and opened it with much fanfare.

Although the Danube-Black Sea Canal Administration (DBCA) has enjoyed unprecedented independence since last December's revolution, the task of filling the huge 90 metre (yard) wide waterway with international shipping is daunting.

"I cannot say when we will reach full capacity," said Chief Engineer Anastasiu Severin. "It depends

on international developments."

A canal from Nuremberg to Regensburg in West Germany is due to open in 1992, creating a through passage for commercial barges from the North Sea to the Black Sea. It would be linked to the Danube-Black Sea Canal by the Danube River.

Traffic along the canal system would be slower than by sea, experts say. But it would be safer and cheaper, since one motorised push boat could be used to propel six barges, cutting fuel costs.

The DBCA hopes that the canal would then be used to service the by-then burgeoning economies of Central Europe, particularly Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

"Constanta could then become the Eastern European port like Rotterdam in the West," the administration's general manager, Valeriu Nae, told Reuters. "Why not? I am convinced of it."

Current shipments include iron ore from Australia and Brazil for smelting at the Romanian industrial centre of Galati, phosphates, and parts for oil platforms exported by the Czechoslovak company Skoda and assembled at Constanta.

The DBCA has taken advantage of the revolution to push for a striking degree of autonomy from the government.

Tolls for the canal, previously set by the department of transport and navigation, have been cut by up to 50 per cent by the administration in an attempt to attract new custom.

Although 60 per cent of the canal's revenue (\$7.8 million in 1989) still goes to the government, the

administration has won the right to accept payment directly in dollars from foreign customers.

All negotiations with clients were previously carried out by government ministries, and all foreign currency transactions had to pass through centralised transport agencies.

"Foreign shippers would come through and we couldn't tell them anything except to go to Bucharest," Severin told Reuters.

"All decisions came from the ministry, often from men with no experience."

But the DBCA's autonomy is provisional and it remains heavily indebted to the government.

Of the \$1.8 billion spent in building the canal system, \$800 million came as aid from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the rest as a loan from the Bucharest government.

The DBCA has rescheduled repayment of the principal, and is currently covering only new equipment costs.

"Up to now, our situation with the government has been unclear," Severin said before the May 20 elections in Romania.

There are grand 4.5 metre (15 feet) long models of the canal in the administration's central building but they are not matched by reality on the waterway outside.

There is more activity on the banks of the canal — which now feeds irrigation to formerly arid farmland — than on the water itself.

Romania's 'forgotten children' get help from British mothers

By Claire Lockhart

THREE British housewives went to Romania, like so many others, to take clothes, toys and medical supplies for the country's "forgotten children."

But they were so shocked by the terrible conditions in the hospitals that they are now dedicated to reforming the system with much-needed training for medical staff.

Beverley Turner, Liz Williams and Ann Daniels, of the charity British Friends of Romania, found desperate staff shortages, with at times only one nurse to look after 60 babies, and only limited supplies of essentials.

Staff were having to use disposable needles and syringes more than once and there was no soap, disinfectant or detergent.

The three mums from Workington, Cumbria, were able to demonstrate the first HIV testing kits to be used in the country's second largest city, Brasov, and found the situation critical.

Ann, 47, told me: "It's all right going out there with provisions. But there are consequences to the staff receiving those provisions. When we took HIV testing kits and did some random tests on a few babies, it showed one to be HIV positive and two Hepatitis B positive. It highlighted the urgent need for screening and identifying those children at risk in the hospital."

Now the mayor of Brasov has provided a 55-room hotel for the women to turn into a British centre to train local doctors and nurses.

Syringes, needles, disinfectant, contaminated-waste disposal units, gloves, plastic aprons, bedding and baby coats are among the items the



British housewives (left to right) Liz Williams, Ann Daniels and Beverley Turner.

three women have provided for the city's paediatric hospital.

"We also wanted to teach the importance of play," said Ann, a registered general nurse. So they created a play area with donated toys.

"We were distributing toys to children who had never seen toys. Even the adults hadn't seen toys. The medical director of the hospital spent the afternoon on her knees playing with them. I was so fascinated watching these 'underprivileged adults' playing with these toys. They were just like kids."

"They're very short-staffed. They need manpower as well as money. As it happened, we were able to do something positive. And we just felt the need to do that."

But no-one was prepared for the conditions in the hospital. "It's like going back to Victorian times," says Liz, 38, a teacher. "Very basic. There were great efforts by the staff to keep things clean and change beds. But with-

out plastic sheets or disinfectant for washing things, the best efforts couldn't keep it clean."

With no plastic nappies, babies wore old clothed tied up with bandages and string. Beverly, 32, said: "Some of the babies didn't even have the power to cry. They just lay there staring up at the ceiling."

"And these babies do not get fed by individuals because of the shortage of staff. Their bottles are propped up by the side of the bed. If they haven't finished when someone comes to take the bottles away, too bad. They get very little human contact. They don't get touched or cuddled. And that's lack of staff, not cruelty."

Liz said she was "overwhelmed with sorrow" when she saw the children. "They sat in their cots all day long staring into space and they had no physical contact or stimulation. They were developing all sorts of mental problems."

"At the end of the day, we had to stop looking at the plight of each individual child and examine the system as a whole. First we saw the abandoned babies in hospital. Then the next stage up was the children in the homes and then the schools for early teenagers."

"Even in the hospital we saw people who weren't mentally ill. They were victims of circumstance. They were not born mentally ill, they just couldn't cope, perhaps from being abandoned as children."

"The babies are placed into hospitals where there is no stimulus, no physical contact. They're lying on their backs staring at the ceiling."

"There's no colour or going outside into the sunshine. And there's no noise."

Taking some of the children to one side, Beverly, Ann and Liz started cuddling them and playing with them and seeing if they would respond to tender loving care.

"Within two weeks, they were jumping up and down in their cots asking to be cuddled," said Liz.

"What we've got to fight for, as much as anything, is the future generations," added Beverly. "We've got to prevent this from ever happening again. And we've got to consider the rights of the child — to live a good life."

"I think because we're Christians, it was a wonderful opportunity to serve in a country like that, which we didn't want to miss. It was great to go out there and just give a week of my life."

Liz and Ann stayed an extra week in Romania while Beverly came back to raise money locally for a British training centre in Romania. And the Mayor of Brasov has donated a 50-room hotel for them to convert for their



One of the hundreds of children BFOR are trying to help.

purposes. But it will cost thousands of pounds to equip the centre to provide screen for HIV and Hepatitis B.

"One of the priorities we did feel was training," said Ann. "And the nurses hadn't had any formal training for 10 years, the doctors for seven. They're really hungry for knowledge and this hotel would be ideal as a centre for training."

"The staff were very welcoming. They're begging for help. Not just large convoys of stuff that's wonderful but, if no-one shows them how to use it, it

becomes a waste. Having through the medical aid that had already arrived, we found the instructions were in English. And they will not use it for fear of overdosage. It was quite a tragedy to see stuff not being used."

Liz told me: "We had a store of supplies that had already gone over for British Friends of Romania. They were waiting for people to sort and distribute. But you can't just distribute without showing them how to use the supplies. So we were just going to go out for a week. But we ended up doing more because we see

what is needed in the long term."

Ann especially remembers an anxious mother who had waited 12 years to have a baby. "Through the very poor delivery, the child was born brain-damaged. And she was really hoping we were going to be able to help this baby."

"We used to go and visit the baby. And even though she couldn't see, I used to whisper to her and sing. And we got her a musical toy and she was thrilled."

"Apparently, if someone had the experts to operate, that baby would have been all right. And yet the doctors said they were just

waiting for the babies to die."

"She was a sad case because we'd been told that 60 per cent of the handicaps with children were due to delivery. It was another pitiful example of the lack of proper staffing and expertise. There were several cases like that without hope."

Now three big-hearted British housewives are offering help.

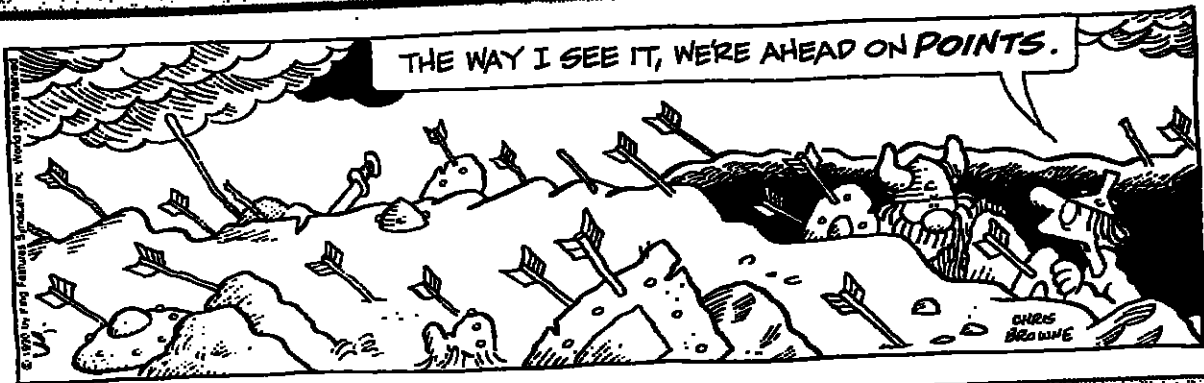
If you wish to contact British Friends of Romania, write to: BFOR UK Office, 27 Broadlands, Netherfield, Milton Keynes, MK6 4RJ, England.

LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Star



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



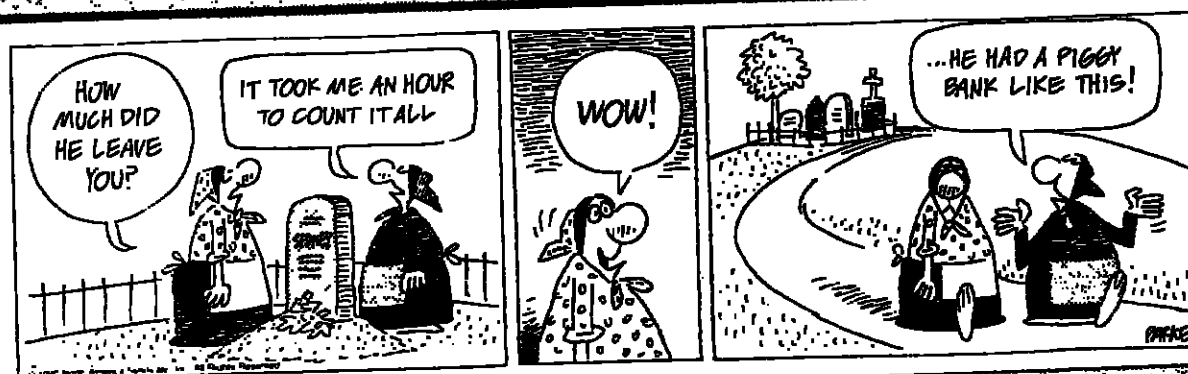
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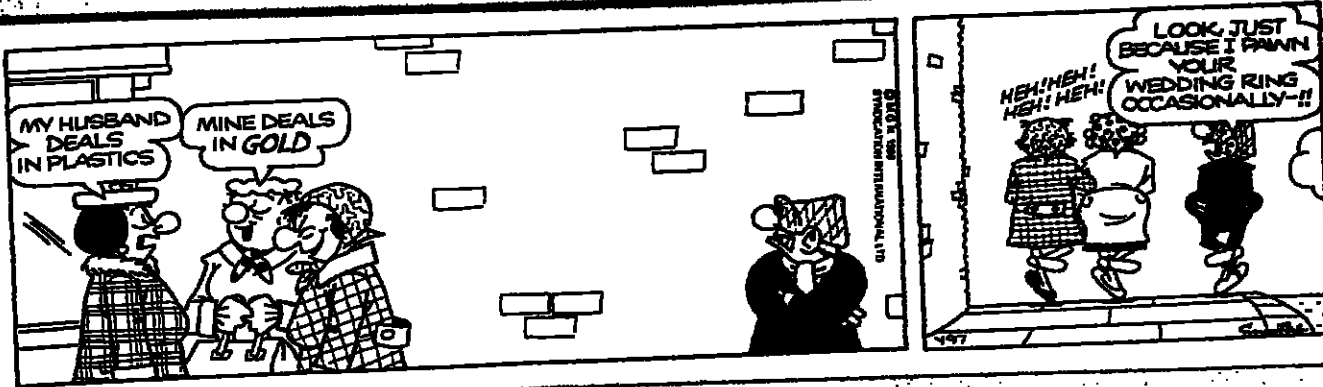
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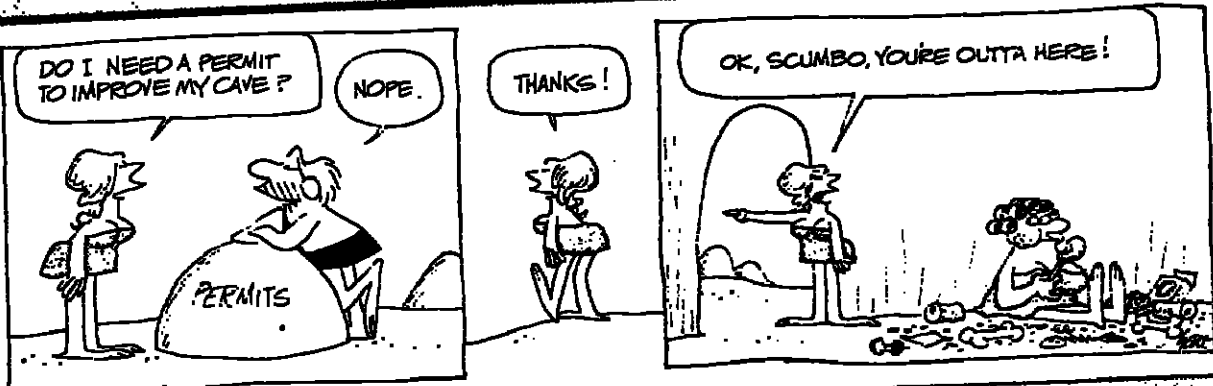
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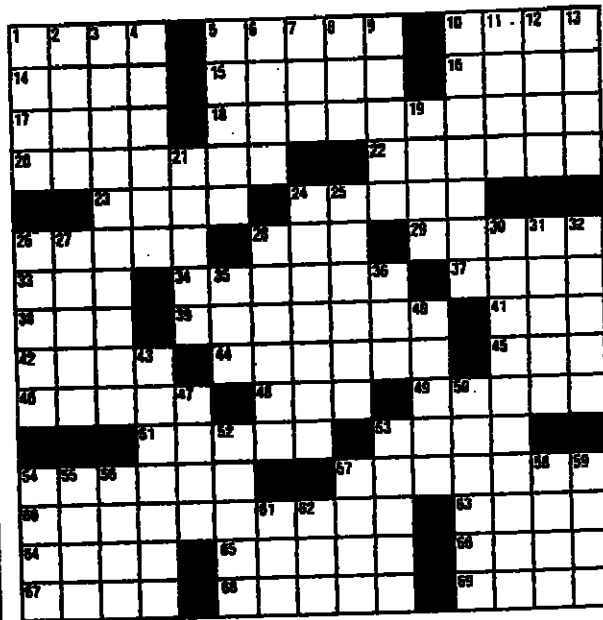
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



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 - 53 Wet blankets
 - 54 Concordes
 - 55 Bloke
 - 56 Plane or drome
 - 57 Hang fire
 - 58 Shorebird
 - 59 Horse of a certain color
 - 61 Denizen of
 - 62 Across
 - 63 Hankering

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

DOODLE SPAD SHIP
AIRIES HOPE TIRO
MARIATHOMER ORAL
ENTREPRENEUR
EVE PLUMMER
DEFAME JAIL
OILS JOYCE AME
CROSSCOUNTRYRUN
KER POSSE ENID
ALIT ACTORS
STOODUP FRO
TANDEM DECORATE
OBIE STATHLETES
BOOT ISLE EDILE
EONS AMIS ROPER

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
A 2,200-POINT SWING

Both vulnerable. East deals.
NORTH
♠ 8 3 2
♥ A Q J 8 3 2
♦ 8 7 5
♣ 9

WEST
♠ 4
♥ 10 7 6 5
♦ A J 10 6
♣ A 10 8 7

EAST
♠ A 9 6
♥ K 9 4
♦ K 3 2
♣ K Q J 3

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 7 5
♥ Void
♦ Q 9 4
♣ 6 5 4 2

The bidding:
East South West North
1 NT 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠
Dbl Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠
Strange things can happen at a major tournament. On this hand from the Open Pairs event at the recent Spring North American Championships, there was a five-trick difference between the number of tricks taken by two of the declarers.

West's bid of three spades was game forcing and showed a four-card heart suit. East-West would have played three no trump, a contract that would produce an over-trick with careful technique. But North got into the action and South became declarer at four spades

doubled. Sitting East and West were Brian Clubok and Edgar Kaplan of New York. West led the four of spades. East rose with the ace and returned the suit and declarer played the king from hand (letting the second spade ride to the eight would have saved a trick).

A club was conceded to East and the nine of trumps removed dummy's last ruff while locking declarer in hand. As a result, South could score no more than his five trump tricks, yielding a penalty of 1,400 points.

Another declarer to play in four spades doubled was Jerry Clerklin of North Vernon, Ind. He received a heart lead and made full use of that gift and subsequent slipshod defense. Dummy's jack was inserted and East's king ruffed away. The nine of clubs was won by East, who shifted to a low trump to declarer's king. A club ruff served as an entry to dummy to cash two high hearts, declarer discarding two diamonds from hand.

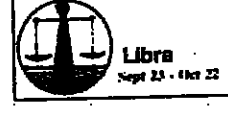
Declarer came to hand with a heart ruff, ruffed a second club with the table's last trump, then led three of hearts. For reasons known only to himself, East chose not to ruff, so declarer was able to discard one of his minor-suit losers. Making 10 tricks, for a score of plus 790.



You will not be in the best of moods and should try hard not to lose your temper. Avoid waiting time on secondary matters. Your lucky numbers are 16 and 24. Do not mistake indolence for tiredness. Be amenable.



You will have to face up to some changes, but if you keep an open mind it will not prove too difficult. And the only reason for being too old to learn is to think you are. You should no more dismiss than exaggerate the difficulties. Be generous.



You should not keep anyone waiting unless you really cannot avoid it. Do not allow your emotions to rule but do not repress them either. Eat no more than needed to maintain your weight. Be less arrogant.



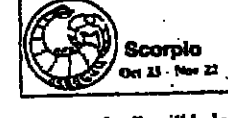
You will be able to do something to increase your personal prestige. But only if you make an effort not to offend or to annoy. And you must ensure you do not make a nuisance of yourself. Be more cautious.



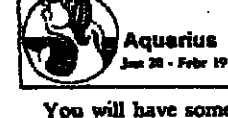
Pay no less attention to what happens within your family than to what happens amongst your acquaintances. Do not rely on guesswork nor should you just hope for the best.



Whilst there is a different way of doing certain things, there is no point in changing just for the sake of change. You should concentrate on doing what needs to be done rather than just switching haphazardly from one thing to another.



A good talk will help to clear the air and to dispel a misunderstanding. Have the courage of your convictions and stick to your principles. You should avoid living in the past, present and future is what counts just now. Be sincere.



You will have something to be pleased about but must resist a temptation to ignore some less pleasant aspects. Keep calm even though there are some elements inclined to exasperate or provoke. Keep your wits about you. Be moderate.



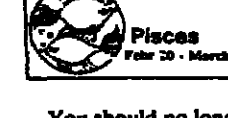
Watch out — do your best to avoid making matters more complicated. Do not allow yourself to be motivated by malice or spite, nor try to "get your own back." If instead you just do what you think is right you will prevail. Be reliable.



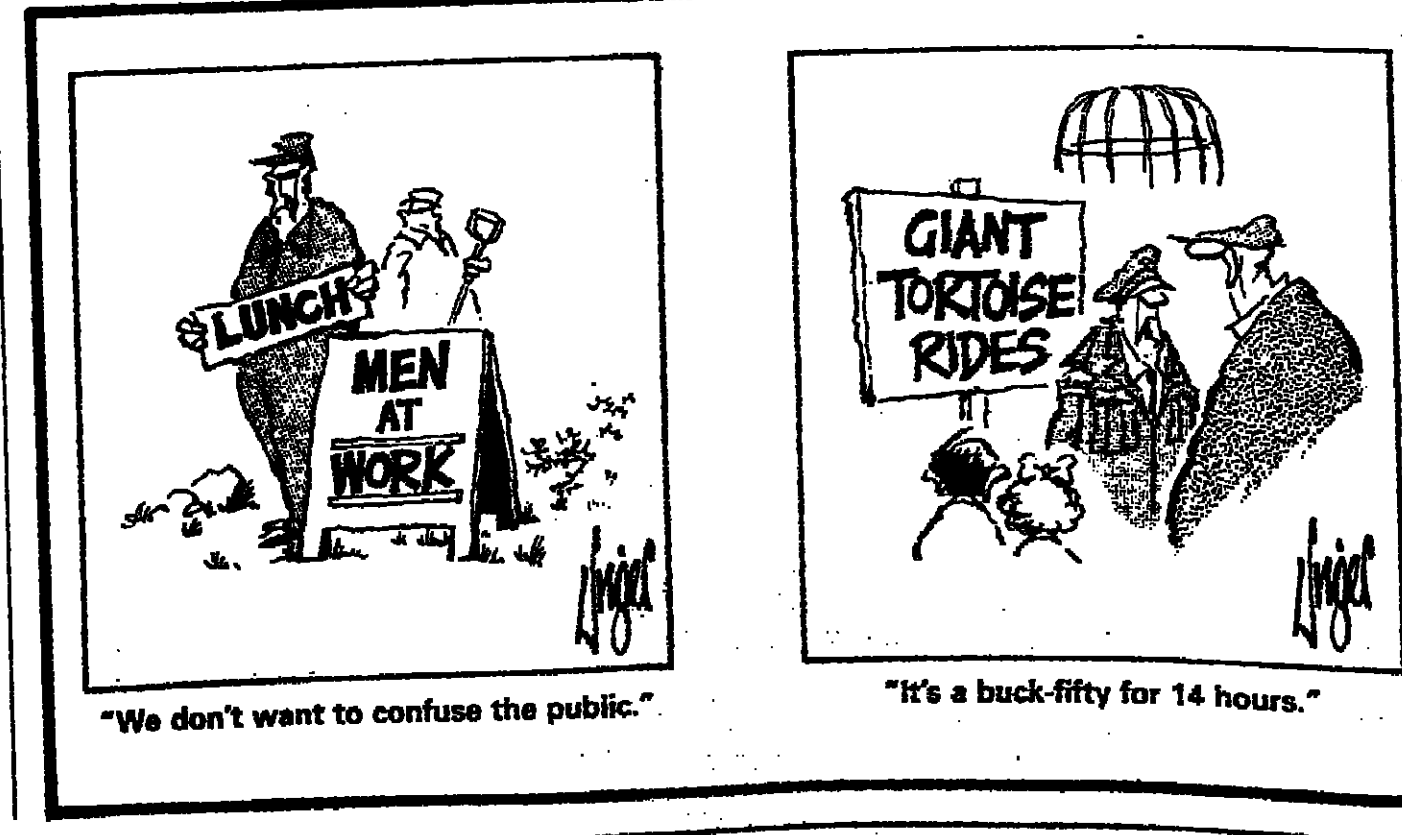
You should not let yourself be guided by emotion or instinct; better to rely on reason. Do not take everything quite so seriously, rather laugh at yourself and the situation you are in. Avoid expecting others to do exactly what you would like them to do. Be tolerant.



You will need a little more will-power if you are not going to be dissuaded from what should be done. And a liability to give up all too easily must be combated. Eat what you enjoy but not more than is good for you. Be tactful.



You should no longer postpone what you well know should be done as soon as possible. If you rely too much on others you are more likely to fail. What you had not expected to be will prove very much in your favour. Be hopeful.



Do you make love or war?

By Judy Byrne

DO you spread goodwill and calm in your wake? Or do you leave an aftermath more akin to a tornado or small civil war?

Are you the one who fires the opening shot in every round of the family feud? Or do you step in where others fear to tread and pour oil on troubled clan waters?

And are your close personal relations angelic or hellish? Do you cherish or wreck? Support or trample underfoot?

Don't be too sure you know the answers... yet. Doing this quiz may open your eyes about the real you.



Is your marriage a battle ground and your family always at loggerheads? Or are you a doormat for one and all?

- Someone is rude to you in a shop. Do you:
 - pretend not to notice?
 - walk out?
 - walk out, muttering audibly?
 - speaking back so politely you hope they'll cringe inside?
 - give them a severe tongue-lashing?
- What do you wish for?
 - Money.
 - Power.
 - Tranquility.
 - Health.
 - happiness.
- Your "best friend" owes you money and is showing no signs of paying it back. Do you:
 - forget it?
 - keep hoping, but say nothing?
 - start hinting?
 - ask if there is any chance...?
 - threaten that the friendship is over if it is not cash, now?
- Which of these has contributed most to the rising divorce rate?
 - more people can afford it.
 - people are more selfish than they used to be.
 - there is too much sexual freedom.
 - loyalty does not seem to be valued anymore.
 - people are more willing to admit mistakes.
- You suspect you partner is having an affair. Do you:
 - challenge him?
 - start dropping hints?
 - watch carefully for signs that you are right?
 - wait and see?
 - indulge him. He obviously needs a little spoiling?
- You have won a lottery. Do you give your partner:
 - all of it?
 - more than half of it?
 - half of it, or you spend it all together?
 - less than half of it?
 - nothing?
- Which of these is the most important for a successful marriage?
 - freedom from money worries.
 - tolerance.
 - a sense of humour.
 - the ability to bounce back.
 - freedom to do as you please.
- Which of these comes closest to your view?
 - rows are not good for marriage and should be avoided.
 - rows are not good for marriage and should be avoided at any cost.
 - rows are inevitable but should not be too frequent.
 - the rows you have matter less than the quality of the making up.
 - rows keep a marriage alive and exhilarating.
- You find that your friend's husband is having an affair. Do you:
 - start dropping hints and hope she will work it out for herself?
 - say nothing?
 - tell him you know?
 - tell him you'll tell her unless he ends the affair?
- You are at traffic lights and the neighbouring car is obviously planning to race you. Do you:
 - bend over the wheel in concentration?
 - pretend to ignore it — then put your foot down and catch him unawares?
 - take off at your usual pace?
 - go slow? Who needs aggro?
- When you hear of a woman who manages a full-time job, keeps a beautiful house and always turns her children out marvellously, do you:
 - wish you could be like her?
 - thank goodness it's not you?
 - think it's too good to be true?
 - think she is a professional martyr?
 - hate her?

12. Do you think women who protest outside missile bases are:

- courageous but foolish?
- courageous and wise?
- unrealistic?
- dangerous?
- idealistic?

13. Did your parents:

- row a lot?
- row sometimes?
- row very rarely?
- never row?
- never row in front of the children?

14. Do you have the feeling that your life is:

- a rollercoaster ride?
- an adventure?
- a fairy story?
- a battle plan?
- a logistical exercise well under your control?

15. When your partner says something that upsets you, do you:

- sulk?
- feel your hackles rise — and show it?
- hit back?
- hide your spontaneous reaction?
- refuse to let it upset you?

HOW TO SCORE
Award yourself points as follows:

	a	b	c	d	e
1	0	5	15	10	20
2	15	20	0	5	10
3	5	0	10	15	20
4	15	0	5	10	20
5	20	15	10	5	0
6	0	5	10	15	20
7	5	0	10	15	20
8	5	0	10	15	20
9	20	15	10	0	5
10	15	20	10	0	5
11	0	5	10	15	20
12	5	0	10	20	15
13	20	15	10	0	5
14	0	10	5	20	15
15	0	15	20	10	5

WHAT YOUR SCORE MEANS

205-300
You are at war with yourself, your loved ones and the world.
There's nothing wrong with being nobody's doormat, but being over aggressive has two disadvantages. Firstly, it uses up so much of your energy that could be used more constructively and/or enjoyably. Secondly, it is counter-productive.
You'll get more of your own way if you use a softly, softly variant of the all-guns-blazing approach at the right times.

105-200
You make love, rather than war. Of course, you are not perfect. You have your faults, your selfish ways, your grumpy days.
But, your head and your heart both have the gift of loving. You understand how to put others before yourself, how to step into their shoes and see life their way, how to wrap your love around them when that is what they need most.

0-100
This is not love or war, it's surrender. It is not loving or being loved to let people walk all over you. Loving is an equal relationship, with the giving and the taking in something approximating to equal proportions.
You are all give and no take. Take care, or the real you will vanish inside your martyr's mask.
Indulge yourself a little. And learn to be a little demanding. People will start to take notice when you do.



Urbano Barberini and Nastassja Kinski in a scene from the new film.

Alluring Nastassja and 'innocent' Valeria break Timothy's heart

By Frank Durham

THE alluring Nastassja Kinski was only 13 when German director Wim Wenders spotted her dancing in a rock club and knew she was something very special.

And she is still weaving the same elusive spell over film-makers and cinema-goers.

Director Jerzy Skolimowski became the latest in the long line when he chose her for the role of the irresistible siren Maria in his film of Ivan Turgenev's novel *Torments of Spring*.

He says: "Everyone thought of Isabelle Adjani straight away. It's true she's remarkable, but the audience would have had less of a surprise."

"Nastassja Kinski is unpredictable. She has a raw sort of sophistication, she fuses a child's naivety with a woman's sexuality and never falls into the traps of playing the 'femme fatale'."

Nastassja's childhood was a pilgrimage to locations in France, Italy, England and Spain, learning to speak English, French and Italian as well as her native German, in the wake of her actor father, Klaus Kinski.

She says: "There was much hugging and laughter in my childhood. I'm still feeding on it, nourished by it."

The laughter had to stop when she was eight and her parents separated and then divorced.

Nastassja made her home with her mother, writer Ruth Brigitte, in Munich, and grew up dreaming of being a ballerina.

Her mother's unconventional ideas of child-rearing left her daughter a free spirit. She says: "When I was 12, my mother let me loose like a wild animal."

Then, at 13, Wenders cast her in a minor role as a circus performer in *Falaise Bewegung*.

She had already clocked up several more German roles, her first appearance speaking English in the film *To The Devil A Daughter*, with Richard Widmark, and co-starred with Marcello Mastroianni in *Come As You Are*. This was when she had a fateful meeting with Roman Polanski at a dinner party in Munich. Nastassja was still only 15.

Film-maker Polanski, who went into voluntary exile in France in 1977 rather than face a charge of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor in the United States, asked Kinski to pose for a fashion spread he was shooting for French Vogue.

Then he persuaded her to go to Los Angeles to study acting with the late Lee Strasberg and to England to perfect her English accent so he could cast her in the film that made her an international star, *Tess*.

The critics adored her. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association awarded her its coveted Golden Globe as the year's Most Promising Newcomer. Kinski was just 17.

For a time, Polanski, who is 27 years her senior, was her lover as well as her saviour.

Last year, the director whose wife, Sharon Tate, was murdered by the followers of Charles Manson 20 years ago, married unknown actress Emmanuelle Seigner, 34 years younger than him.

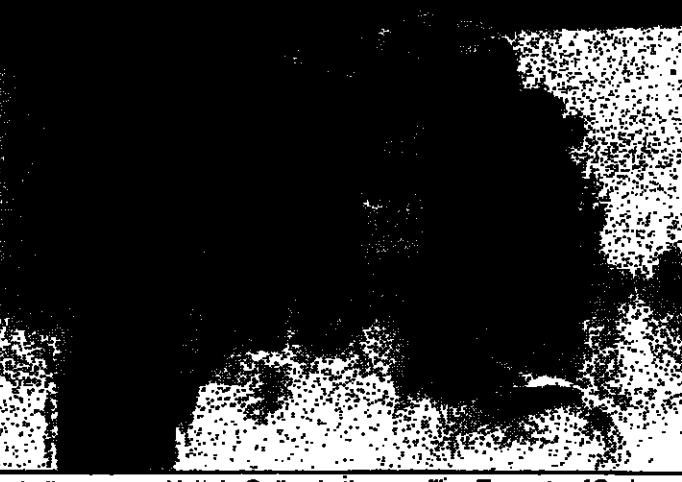
Nastassja, who is 28, is married to Egyptian businessman Ibrahim Moussa and has a son, Aljosha, who is five, and a three-year-old daughter, Sonia.

A shared admiration for the hauntingly lovely Nastassja is not the only link between Skolimowski and Polanski. Both

In Nastassja's latest movie, she plays a married Russian with love... for another man. Her rival for Timothy Hutton's affections is sizzling Valeria Golino this time acting as demurely as possible.



American actor Timothy Hutton as the naive Dimitri Sanin in *Torments of Spring*.



Italian actress Valeria Golino in the new film, *Torments of Spring*.

were born in Poland. Skolimowski's father and Polanski's mother both died in concentration camps.

The two studied together at the Lodz Film School and co-wrote *Knife in the Water*, which put Polanski on the international film-making map. Years later, critics were to find similarities in the anxiety and alienation both portrayed in their films.

Torments of Spring presented other casting challenges, even after Kinski had been signed up.

The success of the film, which Skolimowski describes as "a love story that is neither too sentimental nor too dramatic," also depended on counter-balancing Kinski with the right actress to play Gemma, her innocent rival in love.

Says Skolimowski: "She had to be European, the prototype Italian girl. The choice was easy. Valeria Golino is the best actress of that generation in Italy today."

Like Nastassja, Valeria was an early developer. She was born in Naples and grew up in Athens and picked up French and English as well as Greek and Italian along the way.

She was a model at 14 and was only 16 when director Lina Wertmuller spotted her and asked her

to screen test for a role in *A Joke of Destiny*.

Valeria says: "I did this monologue from Shakespeare which to me was like Arabic. And I had never acted before." Nevertheless, Wertmuller decided to go with his instinct and take a chance on her. He was right.

For her second film, *My Son, Infinitely Beloved*, starring Ben Gazzara, she won Best Actress at the Italian Film Festival in Venice.

A couple of major European awards later, Valeria made her first American film as the sultry trapeze artist in *Big Top Pee-wee*.

Her second American film was playing Tom Cruise's girlfriend in *Rain Man*, which put her firmly on the international map.

For Dimitri Sanin, the man torn between the women, Skolimowski wanted "someone who can combine innocence, naivety and romanticism. It is very difficult to find American actors who aren't too American, and who fulfil these three criteria."

"Timothy Hutton was the first of a very short list."

Hutton, son of actor Jim Hutton, was only five when he made his acting debut with his father in

Never Too Late. "Acting was not my primary goal at the age of five," he says. "It was not until I had turned 17 that I decided I wanted to act."

He has been acclaimed as one of the best of his generation since his debut, starring television role in *Friendly Fire*. That memorable performance caught the eye of Robert Redford, who was about to direct for the first time.

He cast Timothy in *Ordinary People* and his career really took off. He clocked up three awards for the role, including an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor.

For the role of Maria's wine-dazed husband, Skolimowski turned again to Bill Forsythe, who had previously worked with him on *The Lightship*, the film which won his Best Director at the Venice Film Festival five years ago.

Skolimowski, who cast himself in a cameo role as Victor Victorovich in the film, says: "Forsythe agreed to put back on 35 lb. that he had finally managed to lose to play Polozov."

Forsythe, whose growing gallery of character portrayals are building him a reputation as one of the most versatile actors in Hollywood, was born in a tough area of Brooklyn.

A harsh childhood and the lure of the gangs were pushing him towards a life of crime until a teacher saved him by channelling his energies into drama.

He started acting with church and community theatres at the age of 10 — making his debut as the lead in *Julius Caesar* — and to study and work professionally in the theatre at 16.

Shooting was not without dramas of its own. Two directors of photography share the credits on the film, which is visually stunning. Witold Sobocinski had been working on it for only three weeks when he fell ill.

"We were very lucky that Dante Spinotti became available," says Skolimowski.

Skolimowski first read the Russian novel decades ago in Poland and admits: "I did not like it at all. Turgenev wrote *Torments of Spring* as an admonishment. Who, I ask you, wants to be admonished at 22?"

"Now that I've lived, I know better."

"Besides," he says "all directors sooner or later feel like making a love story." But this is one with particular relevance to himself.

The script contains a line not in the original novel: "Be careful of the Russian spirit, it can turn out to be unpredictable."

Skolimowski's grandfather was a general in the Czar's army, who was in the garrison in Warsaw in 1900. He says: "When he decided to marry a Polish girl, the Czar ordered him to tear off his epaulettes and sent him back to St Petersburg."

That is how my grandmother found herself leading a difficult life in Warsaw with a little girl, my mother. That's an example of the Russian unpredictability, which is perhaps a little malign.

"I see a multitude of obscure, secret complexities in the Russian spirit. The most specific is probably a certain tendency to deep melancholy, to consider fate to be stronger than will, in fact a rather depressive tendency to avoid responsibility."

"When a Russian is happy, he pinches his soul, as they say there, to make sure he isn't sleeping."

"I never stop fighting the Russian in me."

Ecology

World effort to save swamps

By Claude Regis

GENEVA, (Reuter): For centuries wetlands were dismissed as snake-infested swamps swarming with mosquitoes and good only for hunting and fishing.

But they are slowly being recognised for their economic and environmental significance.

More than two-thirds of the world's fish-catch breed in wetlands and 18 of Europe's 31 species of most endangered birds, including dalmatian pelicans, depend on them for survival.

Despite quiet international efforts to protect them, wetlands are being destroyed at an alarming rate, threatening animals and plants with extinction.

"Wetlands are not wastelands," says Daniel Navid, secretary-general of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

They are a permanent home to seals, otters and beavers, a breeding ground to countless species of migratory birds and a last refuge for endangered plants, he told Reuters in an interview.

Wetlands are protected by a little-known 15-year-old international convention, the first global conservation treaty, funded by institutions such as the World Bank and monitored by a seven-strong staff in Gland, Switzerland.

Scientists estimate that 35 per cent of shrimp, 28 per cent of plaice, 19 per cent of sole and 35 per cent of herring caught in the North Sea are dependent upon the shallow waters of the Wadden Sea at a critical period of their life cycle, for example.

The Wadden Sea, a 250,000-hectare (620,000-acre) expanse of wetlands shared by the Netherlands, Denmark and West Germany, is protected by the convention.

Accelerated drainage, land reclamation, air and water pollution and over-exploitation of animal species endanger the ecological balance of wetlands.

While the treaty was due essentially to the initiatives of European bird-lovers, it has acquired a far broader meaning and geographical coverage. "It covers many different habitats such as rivers, coastal areas and even coral reefs," Navid says.

It was signed by five countries at its inception in 1975. There are 55 signatories today and Navid, a 40-year-old lawyer from Chicago, hopes another 10 to 15 will join when the so-called Ramsar Convention holds its triennial wetland conference in Montreux, Switzerland, in June.

Named after the Caspian town in Iran where it was agreed in 1971, the treaty took four years for five countries to ratify it and bring it into force.

Countries expected to join at the June 27-July 4 meeting include Czechoslovakia and Romania. When a country adheres it puts at least one protected site on the list of the world's "wetlands of international importance."

"Romania is offering the whole Danube delta and we are quite excited about this because for years the previous government drained the 500,000 hectare (1.2 million acre) area, a major wildlife sanctuary," Navid said.

From a handful on internationally protected wetlands in a few countries 15 years ago, the number has jumped to 482 today, with sites in Scotland and Australia among the latest additions.

The 85,000-hectare (210,000-acre) Camargue region of southern France, famed for its wild horses, is one of the Ramsar Convention's best known conservation sites.

Navid says wetlands — defined as areas of swamps, marshes, fen and peatland with either static or flowing but shallow water — are worth saving not only for their wildlife.

They help to control floods, stabilise the shoreline and maintain water tables for farming. They provide timber and firewood as well as plants for food and medicine.

Putting a site on the Ramsar list does not necessarily mean it will be off limits. Some water can be channelled, plants cultivated and grazing and fishing are permitted as long as they are "compatible with the maintenance of the natural properties of the ecosystem," the convention says.

The signatory country has to report every three years on how it has achieved this.

"The main thing is to preserve the wetlands' ecological character and balance," Navid says.



Amazing facts

About animals



Above: The okapi, which lives in the rain forests of Zaire looks a little like a zebra, but is in fact the only relative of the giraffe. The giraffe itself has a very big heart — needed to pump blood up its long neck to its head. Giraffe's hearts are on average 60 cm (2ft) long, and have walls 7.5 cm (3 in) thick.

The largest blue whale ever seen was over 33m (110ft) long. These whales are the largest of all animals.

Sea anemones are animals, not plants, and feed by catching small passing creatures in their tentacles. They are poisonous, and their touch can cause a severe rash.

Most sea snakes give birth to live young. They have a body flattened from side to side, and can lie on the surface of the water, taking in air.

During the First World War, parrots were kept at the top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. With their acute hearing, they could warn of the approach of enemy aircraft before human beings could hear them.

Although large enough — up to 450kg (1000lb) in weight and 4m (13ft) in length — to be able to swallow a person whole, the giant grouper fish is fairly harmless. It is, however, quite fearless, and has a sinister reputation for stalking skin-divers.

As many as 40,000 people die from snake-bite every year.

The duck-billed platypus of Australia is one of nature's oddities. for it has a furry coat, a tail like a beaver, burrows in the ground, but is equally at home in water. It lays eggs, but suckles its young like other animals. Another unusual creature is the echidna, or spiny anteater, of Tasmania, which has sharp spines like a hedgehog, lays eggs, and suckles its young. Like the platypus, it is a mammal, but has padded feet, strong claws, and a sticky tongue for snatching up insects.

The hyrax is a tiny mammal living in Africa and Australia. It looks like a marmot, has a skeleton like a rhinoceros, and is probably the only animal related to the elephant.

The bluefish population of the western Atlantic Ocean is thought to be about one billion and each one of them manages to eat ten other fish every day.

The chameleon can change colour to suit its surroundings or its mood; it can move one eye without moving the other, and it has a tongue which shoots out at lightning speed to grab food, reaching a length longer than the animal itself!

A crocodile's jaws are strong enough to break a person's leg but only when closing. The muscles which open a crocodile's mouth are quite weak, and the animal's mouth could be held closed with one hand.

Wordsearch

SADDLE UP

BIT	HACKAMORE
BRIDLE	MARE
BRONCO	MUSTANG
COLT	PONY
DAM	PUREBRED
FILLY	REINS
FLYSHEET	SHOES
FOAL	SIRE
FROG	STALLION
GAIT	TACK
GELDING	YEARLING
GIRTH	

ATKIODERBERUP
BLCSEOHSGRTBR
RIAPHSCABPAYI
IITMGNNNDLIB
DUAOEYSIOLTGT
LSTRRLMYIRNEE
ECIGDAOFFIBGE
LSONILEMLFIRH
MADANOERAROSS
AFITGPAETKNAY
LRLSGEUHSICHL
FOIUYNOPEFEAF
CGTMMSORRLPDH

Just for laughs!

"Larry! Come here!" said his furious mother, putting the telephone down. "I've just had a call from Mrs Harrison about your behaviour to her Doris at the school dance last night. You wretched, rude boy!"

"I was nice to her, Mum, really I was!" protested the youth. "I even paid her a compliment when we had a dance."

"Did you, indeed?" said his mother grimly. "And what exactly did you say?"

"I said, 'Gosh, Doris, you sweat less than any fat girl I've ever danced with!'"

"Daddy, do you think I'm vain?"

"Vain, dear? No, I wouldn't say so. Why do you ask?"

"Because most girls as pretty as me are."

"You stupid girl!" said her Mother crossly, "didn't I tell you to watch that saucepan and notice when it boiled over?"

"But I did, Mum. It was half-past ten."

Join the dots

Spring!



Dear Junior readers,

School is almost over and there will be much less studying to do during the summer holidays. You will have plenty of spare time to do whatever you please.

Spending time usefully is very important so that the days do not fly by without enjoying them. So make the most of your holidays.

The first thing you could do is clean up your bedroom. Getting all your school books out of the way can be a great pleasure. Discovering old toys which you have not played with for quite some time can also be fun. Your bedroom is probably full of hidden surprises for the summer.

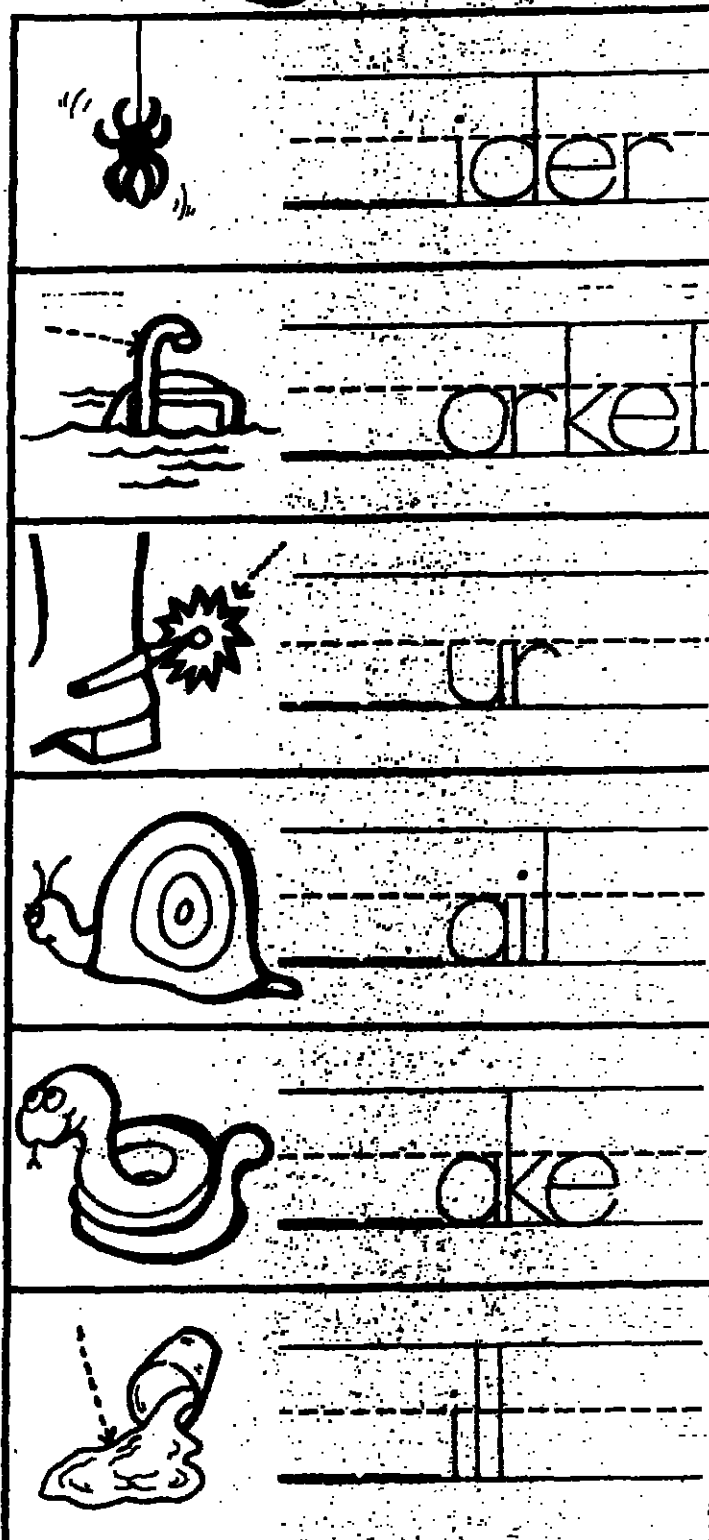
However, I advise you not to neglect read-

ing throughout your holidays. Reading is a wonderful pastime. Not only do you learn about different countries, cultures and experiences but you also learn new words to add to your ever-growing vocabulary.

There are a number of good bookshops around Kuwait which sell children's novels and storybooks. Ask your parents to buy you some and invest at least one hour daily in reading. If you would like to you could then write a book review on the book you read and send it in to JUNIOR TIMES.

If your review is good enough for publishing (I'm sure it will be), many other JUNIOR TIMES readers will share your experiences within the book, wouldn't that be fun! Marjol.

Print the two-letter blend you hear at the beginning of the words. Color the pictures.



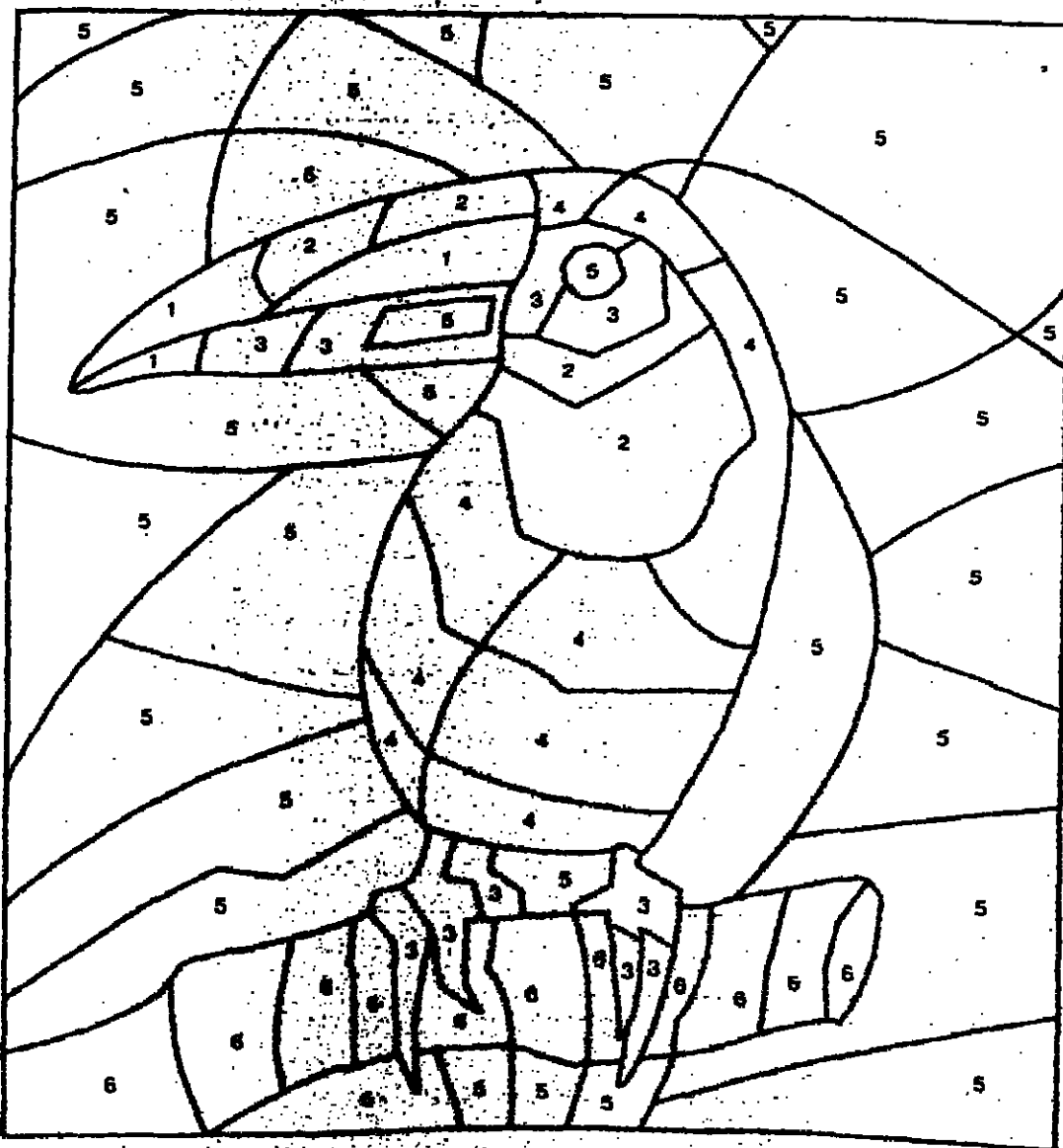
Sneezles

Christopher Robin
Had wheezles
And sneezles.
They bundled him
Into
His bed.
They gave him what goes
With a cold in the nose,
And some more for a cold
In the head.
They wondered
If wheezles
Could turn
Into measles,
If sneezles
Would turn
Into mumps;
They examined his chest
For a rash,
And the rest
Of his body for swellings and
lumps.
They sent for some doctors
In sneezles
And wheezles
To tell them what ought
To be done.
All sorts and conditions
Of famous physicians
Came hurrying round
At a run.
They all made a note
Of the state of his throat,
They asked if he suffered from
thirst;
They asked if the sneezles
Came after the wheezles,
Or if the first sneeze
Came first.
They said, "If you tease
A sneeze
Or wheeze,
A measles
May easily grow.
But humour or please
The wheeze
Or sneeze,
The measles
Will certainly go."
They expounded the reazles
For sneezles
And wheezles,
The manner of measles
When new.
They said "If he freezles
In draughts and in breezles,
Then PHTHEEZLES
May even ensue."
Christopher Robin
Got up in the morning,
The sneezles had vanished
away.
And the look in his eye
Seemed to say to the sky,
"Now, how to amuse them to-
day?"

Matching numbers with colours

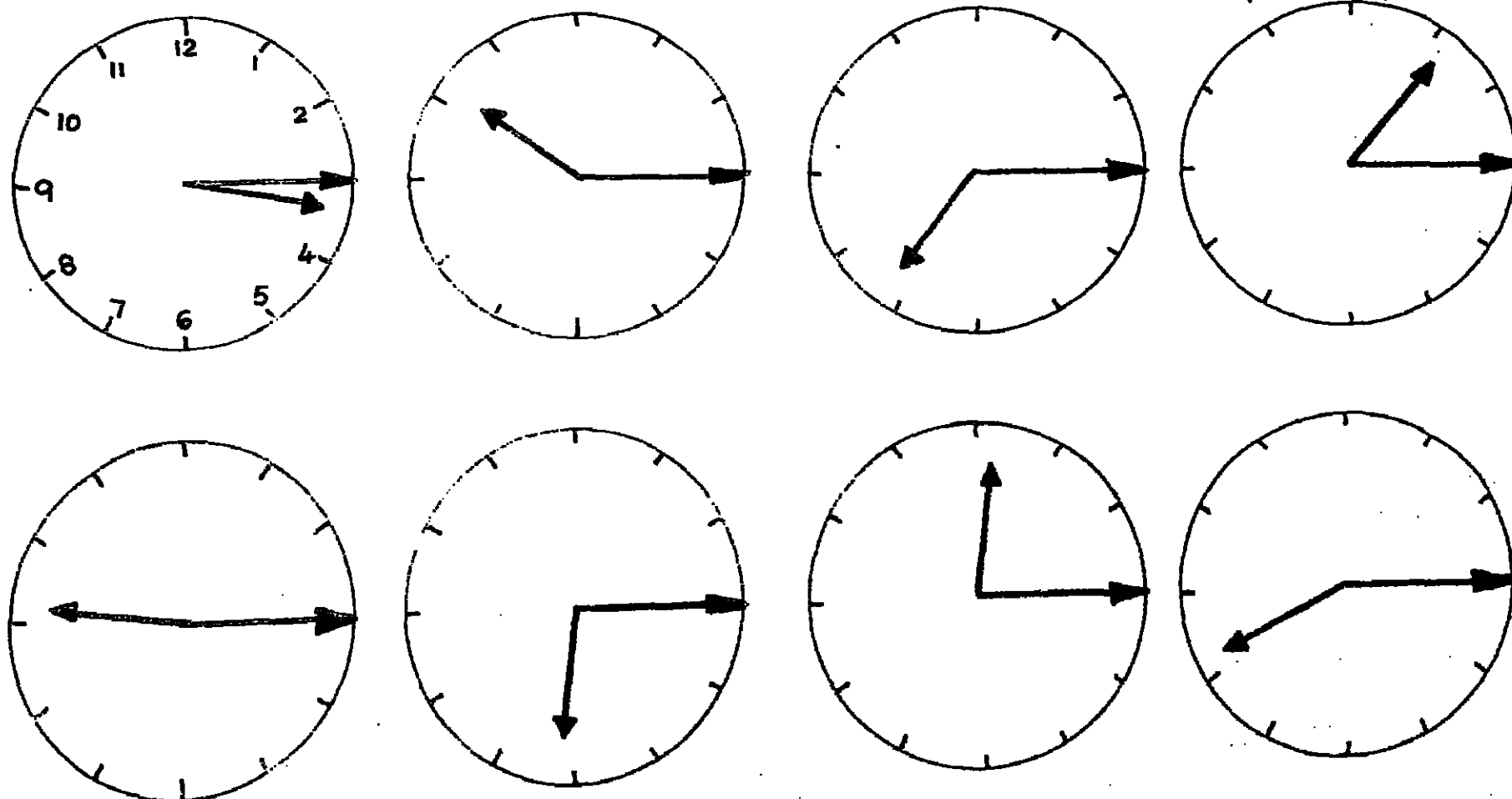
Ask an adult to colour the rectangles below with the colours written in them. Then you can colour the picture by following the code.

1 = red	2 = yellow	3 = blue
4 = black	5 = green	6 = brown



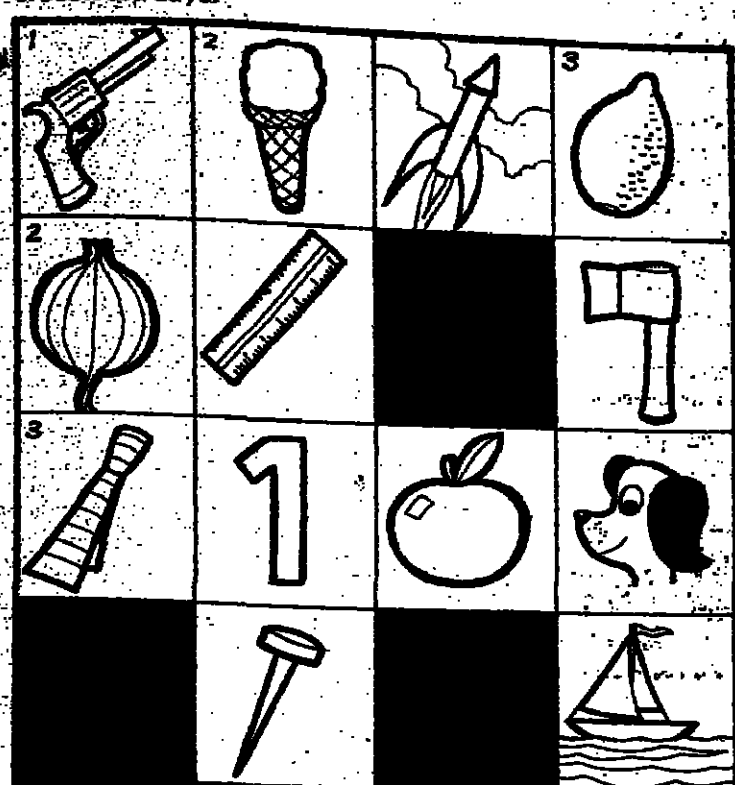
Telling the time

Write the times underneath the clocks.

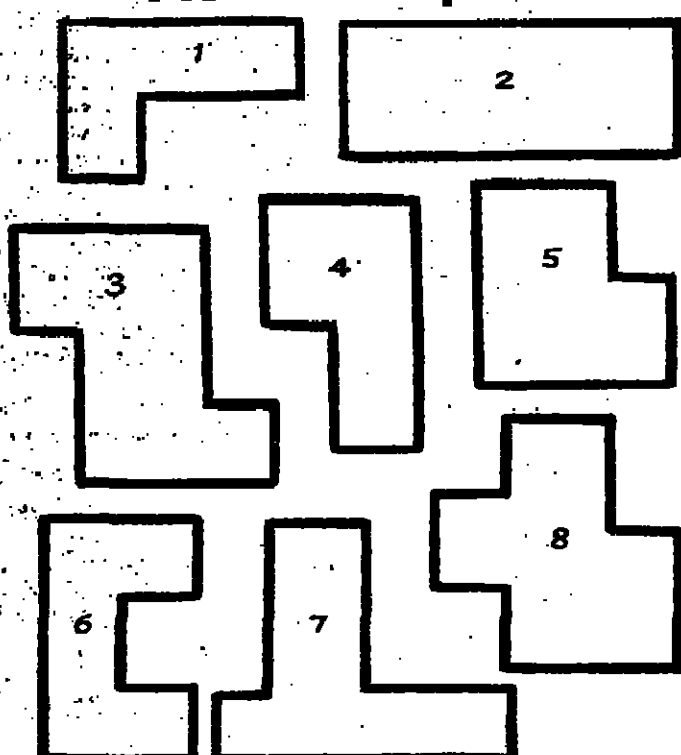


Picture Crossword

Using the initial letter of each object find out what the crossword says.



Fit the Shapes



Only three shapes from these ten will fit together to make a regular shape. Which three are they?

Flag Symbols

These symbols can be seen on the flags of certain countries. Do you know which ones?



Happy birthday



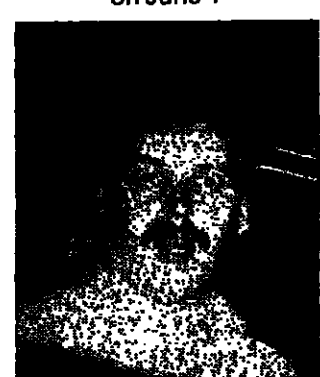
Mohammed Khalid (left) turns 2 soon. His brother Ahmed and sister Nada (centre) wish him a happy birthday



Aravind Mohan turned 3 on June 4



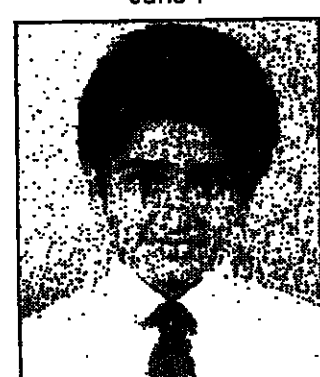
Faheem Shaikh turned 2 on May 28



Martin almost 40 Keast on June 4



Karan Singh turned 4 on May 31



Binu Cherian on May 30



S.F. Fawssul turned 12 on June 4

Musical Instruments

Shakers - put dried beans, lentils, peas, pasta, salt or buttons into an empty container and seal down the lid tightly.

Drums - any of these make a good drum when hit with a wooden or metal spoon.



Scrapers - stick sandpaper onto two boxes and rub together. Corrugated paper works well too.



THE HAUNTED MATCH

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SPIRITS BUT AUDIENCE ENJOYS WHEN YOU SPEAK OF THE SPIRITS.

SO YOU CAN ENTERTAIN THEM WITH SPIRITS

THE MAGICIAN PLACES A MATCH STICK ON HIS LEFT PALM AND ANOTHER HOLDS IN HIS RIGHT HAND. PLACES THE TWO AS IN FIG "A". HE THEN COMMANDS FOR THE SPIRITS TO MAKE THE MATCH JUMP. IMMEDIATELY IT JUMPS.

SECRET: HOLD THE MATCH IN YOUR RIGHT HAND AS SHOWN IN FIG "B" & "C" VERY FIRMLY. PRESS IT ON YOUR RIGHT HAND THUMB NAIL AND MAKE A SLIGHT FRICTION ON THE NAIL. WHICH IS ABOVE IT WILL JUMP.

Fig - C

REMEMBER: MAGIC IS SCIENTIFIC & NOTHING TO DO WITH SPIRITS.

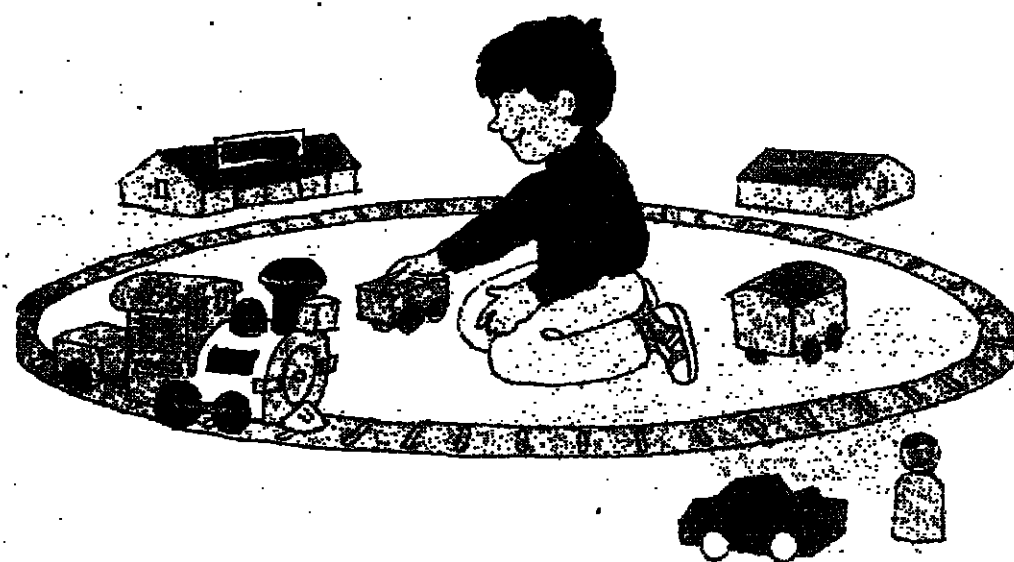
What is Dracula's favourite sport? Batminton.
Why was the Mummy Ghost worried about Baby Ghost? 'Cos he was always in good spirits.
What is the ghosts' favourite Western Town? Tombstone.



Questions you'd like to ask

How does it feel to be lonely?

You feel lonely when you want to be with someone, but no one is around. Your friend can't come over, your parents are busy, and even the dog doesn't want to play.



How do you stop feeling lonely?

Find someone else to play with, or do something by yourself that you enjoy, like reading a book or playing with your favourite toys

EVENTS

AROUND TOWN

Barbie in Kuwait for Festival on Ice

MOST young girls grow up playing for hours with the world's most famous doll, the beautiful Barbie. But pretty Sylvia Froescher grew up and got to be Barbie! Sylvia is now in Kuwait to participate in Festival on Ice.

The accomplished young skating star from Vancouver, British Columbia, portrays the role of Mattel's beloved Barbie in Ice Capades this year. Celebrating its 50th anniversary season, North America's favourite ice spectacular perform at Kuwait's ice skating rink from June 18-24.

"It's a real thrill to play the role of Barbie in Ice Capades," Sylvia says. "Barbie is a good friend of young girls everywhere. It's a pleasure — and a challenge — to bring her to life on skates."

Sylvia first laced up a pair of skates at the age of 8. Her older brother was an accomplished skater and she was determined to learn her way around the

rink. She began taking lessons and was soon involved in all of the activities of the local skating club. "After I learned the basics, I felt very much at home on skates," Sylvia recalls.

When she was 18, Sylvia experienced the thrill of a backpacking trip through Europe. "I really loved it," she says.

Since she joined the Ice Capades family in 1985, Sylvia says she's really enjoyed touring North America. "I never thought I'd get to see so much of Canada, my home country, as well as the United States. It's a terrific way to learn geography."

When she's not under the Ice Capades spotlight, the pretty young skater enjoys playing a softball and volleyball and loves aerobic dancing.

● Barbie is a trademark owned by and used under licence from Mattel Inc.



Sylvia (second left) with some of the show's sponsors.



Marzipan Buddha

SAS Kuwait, hotel's Chinese chef Voon Kwee Kiong took home the bronze medal for the best pastry marzipan display of a reclining Buddha at the recently held Food Asia — third largest food exhibition in the world in Singapore. Above: The award-winning masterpiece of "The Happy Reclining Buddha".



Divers complete course

Kuwait's Fire Department awarded certificates to trainees who successfully completed the first and second diving courses. The certificates were presented at a ceremony held recently at Al Salam Hotel. Fire Department's deputy director-general Ahmed Abdurazzak and a large number of senior officials attended. Above: Some of the graduates.

Theatre Review

When thieves go crazy

By Mahesh P. Dalbehera

ACCORDING to the latest findings, people start to have a genuinely good time only when the corners of their mouths break into a grin. Glimpses of such mechanics of humour I had while watching *Crazy Thieves*, a Tamil comedy presented by the Indian Arts Circle. If the play had succeeded in intensifying facial expressions to many into roaring laughter, credit must be given to the playwright, "Crazy" Mohan. Without being coarse or lewd, which comic plays normally tend to be, Mohan's play spawns a new genre of humorous Tamil drama. With innumerable funny moments, spicy and witty dialogues, and breathtaking suspense, *Crazy Thieves* stole the hearts of the Tamil theatre buffs that had assembled at the IAC auditorium. The performance would, however, have been more enjoyable with a slight increase in the pace of the play, editing of the script, controlling the occasional loud and overdone acting and increased attention to musical effects, stage composition and dramatisation. Barring these flaws, the play sparkled in parts due to credible performances put in by C. P. Vasudevan, Nirmala Rangan, Balasubramanian and Chandran. It did display some energy at times because of untiring efforts made by C. K. V. Raman in extracting the best out of the seemingly inexperienced cast.

The story of *Crazy Thieves* weaves around a happily married couple — Sudarsanam and Mythili — trying to cope with housing

problem which is typical in a metropolis like Madras. Kuppaswamy, father-in-law of Sudarsanam, who stays as a permanent fixture in the Sudarsanam household, advises the son-in-law to construct a house of his own so as to get over the problems of living in a rented house. At last Sudarsanam constructs a house which is located in a desolate place, well outside the city limits. One day two thieves visit Sudarsanam's family disguised as utility workers. They soon reveal their real identity as crooks, planning to stay at the isolated house of Sudarsanam for five days, kidnap a wealthy man's son, blackmail him for a handsome ransom and fly to Singapore. The thugs get a warm and cordial treatment from all the family members except Sudarsanam. But their game-plan is foiled and the curtain drops with a boisterous comic confusion!

The playwright who has a flair for comedy provides vivid colours of humour through several characters. His creation of innuendos and tense situations, sprinkling of innuendos and satirical comments, lift the play to a great comical height. While the script and dialogues created the desired impact, the performance sometimes degenerated into a farce. The director could have exercised some restraint on the antics of some actors. Acting of Vasudevan as Kuppaswamy was convincing. His voice modulation, movement and expression enhanced the dramatic moments. His uninhibited performance overshadowed the

acting of other actors completely. Nirmala Rangan's involvement with the character of Mythili was intense. She delivered the lines with right pauses and emphasis and created a good impact. Chandran in the cameo role was impressive. The miniature sets were passable. Lighting was adequate to the requirements of the play. The costumes and make-up were appropriate. The musical effect failed to heighten the mood and dramatic moments.

During a seminar on problems facing contemporary Tamil theatre, held in August 1989 at the Sankaradas Auditorium in Madras, Poornam Viswanathan had observed: "Although an indepth exploration of a social problem makes a good play and attracts people to it, ultimately it is good acting that determines the quality of a play." This observation holds good not only anytime. It would be a lasting contribution of theatre personalities like C. K. V. Raman to the NRI theatre movement in Kuwait if due attention is given to the quality of acting and technicalities in future productions. The way some artists of *Crazy Thieves* understood the characters, interpreted their personalities, released themselves from their own personalities and perfected the personalities of the characters they were portraying, it is certain that Raman would succeed in contributing largely to the NRI theatre movement already making waves in Kuwait.

Crazy Thieves was recently presented at the IAC.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Holy Quran
9.40 News Summary
9.45 Cartoon Serial
10.00 Good Morning
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repeat)
10.30 Al Sayyed Al Hawa: Arabic serial
11.15 Songs and Music
11.30 Cultural Film
11.45 News Summary
12.00 Achieve Zaman
12.35 Holy Quran/Closedown

Evening

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.30 Sally: cartoon serial
5.00 Alam Al Ghad (Tomorrow's world)
6.00 Sane'a Al Sayoof: Arabic serial; ep.2
7.25 Haroon Yarwin's Story
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Al Rajul Wal Qataar: Arabic serial
10.30 Al Naar Wa Al Firqah: last episode, featuring Talath Hamdi, Samar Sami, Abdul Hadi Al Sabbagh
12.15 News Summary
12.20 World News via Satellite
12.35 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Lone Ranger
6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club: a variety



Candice Bergen plays Murphy Brown; tonight: KTV-2

show for young viewers from Disney.
7.00 Quran and Science: "Spider"
7.30 Kate and Allie: "Wedding Bells Blues". Allie receives a proposal from Bob. Comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law: prepared by the Ministry of Interior; presented by Ali Noor. Focus on local laws.
8.50 Bordertown: "The Gunfighter". A duel takes place to settle a score.
9.15 Horizon: "The Ten Thousand Year Test". Tonight's episode examines nuclear science dangers of radiation and how to get rid of nuclear

debris. Documentary
10.00 Murphy Brown: a broadcast journalist. Murphy can handle everything — except his personal affairs. Comedy. Starring: Candice Bergen, Charles Kimbrough, Regal Buto, Faith Ford.
10.30 The Saint: "The Brazilian Connection". The Saint discovers a gang which sells infants to childless couples.
11.30 News in Brief
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

WHAT'S ON

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka get-together

June 8: 5 pm Sri Lanka New Year get-together, at Al Salam Hotel; entertainment by Super Top Ranks. Entry passes will be available at door.

PAC membership

THE Pakistan Arts Circle (veterans) have launched a membership campaign. All Pakistanis are welcome. Membership forms available from PAC. For details contact A S Qureshi (5716388); A S Ghazali (5631815); N Khan (4843578); Z Butt (2414570).

Kuwait Nomads R.F.C.

June 7: Thursday: Oval Ball at the Hunting and Equestrian Club. 8 pm for 8.30 pm start. Full details from R. Houston (5658435); G. Adams (5644533); S. Hill (5391720).

Hotels

At the Holiday Inn

Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisines.

Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests. Friday Family Lunch: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the SAS

Bistretto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music. Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner. Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezz buffet.

Clock: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

■ All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

At the Meridian La Brasserie Restaurant: Wednesday: Indonesian Corner, cuisine prepared in front of you.

Thursday: Jazz Night — jazz music, seafood specialties. Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day. Versaille: Business lunch and dinner featuring fondue; grilled food.

At the Messiah Beach Al Mubarakiyah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.

Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band. Al Berdoweh: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

At Ramada Al Salam Al Bendera Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.

Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe open from 6 pm to midnight. Al Gandouh Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food.

Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

Italian food promotion until June 6, at Al Bendera Coffee Shop.

Theatre

PAC show cancelled June 7: The PAC committee has cancelled the event scheduled for June 7 at Sharq Hall due to the demise of their chief adviser Shaif Saad on May 25. A new date will be announced later.

Kontak Play June 18: 5 pm IAC, Funtafes. The K.C.W.A. will perform a Kontak play *Tho Maka Naka*. Gate passes now available. For details contact Charles Vas — Tel: 4312952.

Music

Summer Rock Concert June 5/6: High Spirits and Seventh Sky rock concert; music from Police, Dire Straits, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses etc. For reservations call 5387998/2563995 after 5 pm.

Murchana June 15: Murchana, a musical evening, featuring Bengali, Hindi and semi-classical songs at Meridian Hotel. For reservations call 5640389 after 5.30 pm; or 4893424.

Sport

Daniella bowling June 7: Daniella ends social season by inviting all Danes for a relaxed bowling evening, 7 pm. For details of venue contact Helmut — Tel: 3715619; or Winnie — 5733382.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus Hanafi Al Abaha (Arabic) Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi, Farouk Fishawi

Al Sahiya Al Raqassah Wal Siyaseen (Arabic) Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil

Al Hamra The Rescue Starring: Cliff Dillion

Drive-In Al Raqassah Wal Siyaseen (Arabic)

Al Firdos Hatyal (Hindi) Starring: Govinda, Neelam

Fahad Open-Air Qatil (Hindi)

Al Fahad Splitz

Al Jabra Thakkar (Bengali)

Ganada Kirsedam (Malayalam)

Sahibkhat Fort Arthur

Al Job Prastiga (Bengali)

Ahmadi Drive-In Inteha Ayyuhul Zawaaj (Arabic)



Govinda stars in Hatya.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.14 am
Dhuhr	11.46
Asr	3.21 pm
Maghreb	6.45
Isha	8.16

Farewell

After four years as resident manager of Meridian, Kuwait, Fahad Abushar has left the hotel chain for better prospects. The Meridian hotel management wish him all success. Above: Abushar pictured with some of the department heads and hotel staff.



VIP visit

Sheikh Mishal Jarrar Al Sabah, chairman, Karate Federation and Sheikh Jabr Saud Al Sabah, vice-chairman, Kuwait Olympic Committee are seen escorted by Adnan Saad, PR manager, Kuwait International when they were at the hotel on the occasion of a reception honouring Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, chairman, Kuwait Olympic Committee.

الرياضيات

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SPORTS

Robson defends temperamental Butcher, still unsure of best team

CAGLIARI, June 4. (Reuters): England soccer manager Bobby Robson yesterday leapt to the defence of veteran central defender Terry Butcher and admitted he was still unsure of his best World Cup team after England's 1-1 draw with Tunisia.

Butcher, one of the stalwarts of Robson's team selections throughout the last eight years, tore off his shirt

and hurled it into the dug-out where the manager was sitting when he was substituted during Saturday's disappointing match in Tunis.

Robson, however, declined to criticise the player for his behaviour. "Terry was not flinging his shirt at me," Robson said. "He did it out of disappointment and frustration."

"I think it's great to show that, but

in the right way. He hates to lose and it epitomises all that I stand for — a love of the country and the national team."

The England manager said he still had complete faith in Butcher, whose place in the team for England's opening match against Ireland on June 11 is under threat from Mark Wright. Butcher had been cautioned and

was in danger of being sent off before he was substituted after an hour.

Robson said he had had a private talk with Butcher, around whom the England defence has been built for so long, and admitted he was still unsure of his team for the clash with the Irish. Steve Bull, the prolific striker who plays for English Second Division club Wolverhampton, staked a strong

claim for inclusion by coming on as a substitute and scoring England's equaliser, his fourth goal in seven appearances.

Bull's goal helped rescue England from what would have been an embarrassing defeat and prompted serious doubts about Robson's newly-created strike-force of Gary Lineker and John Barnes.

Robson, however, suggested that previously discarded striker Peter Beardsley, rather than Bull, might receive an unexpected call-up alongside Lineker when he picks his opening team.

"That formation has been on the shelf while I looked at John Barnes and Gary Lineker together, but I can restore it at any time I want," he said.

"Now I have to decide whether to stay with Barnes and Lineker or go back to what we know and understand."

Further difficult questions were posed for Robson by his midfield players and particularly Paul Gascoigne whose first half error led to Abdelhamid Hergal striking Tunisia's spectacular opener.

'Keepers face test of nerve

ROME, June 4. (Reuters): All soccer fans dream of playing for their country, but few would wish to swap places with the man who is the last line of defence — the goalkeeper.

He is the one who must launch himself at oncoming strikers and thunderous shots, aware one slip would end his team's hopes of lifting soccer's greatest trophy and turn him into a national villain.

Experience is often vital if he is to withstand the strain as England's Peter Shilton, at 40, the oldest player in the World Cup finals, aims to prove.

Italy '90 will be Shilton's third appearance in the World Cup finals and he showed he has lost none of his lightning reflexes and positional ability when he went through six qualifying matches without conceding a goal.

During the finals, Shilton, whose fanatical training routines ensure he still ranks among the world's best, is set to break the record of 119 international appearances held by former Northern Ireland goalkeeper Pat Jennings.

Belgium's Michel Preud'Homme has blossomed into many experts' idea of the perfect goalkeeper since taking over from Jean-Marie Pfaff shortly after the last World Cup in Mexico.

Preud'Homme dominates the penalty area and couples great agility with near faultless handling to such an extent that his club KV Mechelen value him at \$6 million.

Shilton, Preud'Homme and Soviet goalkeeper Rinat Detsayev, perhaps the best of the bunch in Mexico, are goalkeepers in the traditional mould — sanguine figures coaching and cajoling defenders but never losing control.

Showmen

By comparison Italy's Walter Zenga and Dutchman Hans van Breukelen are showmen.

Both come across as emotional, extrovert figures driving their team-mates on during matches and both pop up frequently as television personalities, enjoying the recognition soccer gives them.

Brazil's Claudio Taffarel is out to destroy the notion that the country never produces goalkeepers to match the quality of its outfield players by providing solid performances as his colleagues turn on the samba skills in Italy.

South American rivals Argentina can still rely on their 1986 World Cup winning goalkeeper Nery Pumpido.

Pumpido typifies the goalkeeper's courage, bravely recovering from a freak training accident in which his finger was almost ripped off when he caught wedding ring on a nail on the crossbar.

Even among the unfancied nations there is plenty of competition for the goalkeeper's jersey. Feelings run high in the Cameroon camp where Thomas N'Kono, a star of the 1982 World Cup, and Bordeaux's Joseph-Antoine Bell are rivals for the spot between the posts.

Both are in Italy despite having threatened to boycott the tournament if the other made the trip.

There is rivalry, too, in the United States squad with Kasey Keller and Tony Meola awaiting coach Bob Gansler's decision on who will do a job which cynics suggest will bring only bruised pride and backache from constantly fishing the ball of the net.

Museum guards agree to strike

ROME, June 4. (AP): Museum guards in Florence and Milan have called a strike for the eve of the World Cup's opening game, newspapers reported yesterday.

The first week of World Cup play also could be marred by strikes by railway and airport workers.

The Italian government has pressured labour groups not to strike during the World Cup, and has persuaded several unions to cancel strikes they had called.

The museum guards voted Saturday to strike on Thursday, the day before the World Cup opens with a match between Argentina and Cameroon in Milan.

The guards are members of the National Federation of Italian Trade Unions (CISL) and the Italian Union of Workers (UIL) — two of Italy's three major labour federations — as well as a small independent union, UNSA.

Dutch tame Yugoslavs

Milan stars score both goals

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, June 4. (Reuters): Second half goals by AC Milan stars Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten secured a 2-0 win for the Netherlands in their friendly soccer match against Yugoslavia yesterday.

Though they displayed superb domination, the 1988 European

champions missed several clear chances before finally managing to crack the shaky Yugoslav defence in the 53rd minute.

Milan's Ruud Gullit, seemingly in his best form after a knee injury which kept him out of action for several months, cut deep on the right wing and crossed

the ball into the penalty area. Yugoslav goalie Tomislav Ivkovic dived for it and briefly bounced it to his fullback Zoran Vulin.

He clumsily parried it to Rijkaard, who had enough time for a precise shot from 15 metres.

Five minutes before the end Rijkaard, found his Milan team-mate Van Basten with a brilliant deep pass.

The player voted Europe's best last year was briefly knocked down by Sion's Mirsad Baljic but rose quickly, found himself alone in front of Ivkovic and scored routinely from 11 metres.

The Yugoslavs, eager to show better form after a 1-0 defeat by Spain a week ago, had two good chances in the first 20 minutes but their shooting was erratic.

The Dutch soon composed themselves and, with Gullit, Rijkaard and Ajax's Jan Wouters assuming control in the midfield, began to create chances.

Gullit blasted just over the bar from 17 metres and in the 31st minute Van Basten shot from almost the same spot only to miss a mere 10 centimetres.

In the second half the Dutch continued to press and even after their first goal they maintained their attack.

A tired Gullit asked to be

replaced just before the second goal but coach Leo Beenhakker kept him on.

"We managed to play strictly as we planned," Beenhakker said after the match. "Our defence was reasonably good and we outplayed the Yugoslavs in mid-field."

This was close to how we should play in Italy and I think we should be among the favourites there."

Yugoslav coach Ivica Osim looked depressed. "We allowed the Dutch team to play as they wanted," he said. "We also repeated our chronic inefficiency. This match looks like a very bad omen for Italy."

Line-ups: Yugoslavia: Tomislav Ivkovic, Predrag Spasic, Mirsad Baljic, Zoran Vulin, Faruk Hadzibegic, Srecko Katanec (Dragoljub Brovovic, 57th minute), Safet Susic (Robert Prosinecki, 57th), Davor Zovic, Dejan Savicevic, Dragan Stojkovic, Zlatko Vujovic (Drako Pancev, 75th).

Netherlands: Hans van Breukelen, Berry van Aerle (Danny Blind 69th), Ronald Koeman, Frank Rijkaard, Arie van Tiggele, Jan Wouters, Erwin Koeman (Richard Witschge, 79th), Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten, Wim Kieft, Graeme Rutjes.



Gullit (centre) fights for the ball with two Yugoslav players. (Reuters wirephoto)

Group E evenly matched

ROME, June 4. (AP): Belgium, Spain and Uruguay head one of the toughest opening round groups in the World Cup soccer championships, but must be wary of a rampaging South Korean squad.

The evenly matched Group E launches play June 12 in Verona and Udine with all four team nurturing realistic hopes of advancing.

Belgium has the best World Cup record in recent years, but Uruguay has a history of strong performances, including two championships and two semifinal appearances in the previous 13 tournaments.

The South American nation of 4 million people also has a unique tradition of playing particularly well every 20 years. It won in 1930 and 1950 and made the final four in 1970.

Uruguay will rely heavily on the striking flair of Enzo Francescoli and his opportunistic partner, Ruben Sosa, and on an aggressive midfield combination.

In the past, the Uruguayans have been notorious

for their physical approach and lack of discipline. This year, team officials have vowed that things will be different.

Belgium was unbeaten in European qualifying Group 7, eliminating Portugal, Switzerland and Luxembourg.

An experienced defense the playmaking skills of Enzo Scifo and the potency of striker Marc de Gryse make the Belgians formidable. This year's rehiring of coach Guy Thys after a string of disappointing results gives hope the team can duplicate its successes of the 1980s.

Spain finished fourth in 1950 and has twice made the quarterfinals, but its record in the world cup has never matched the achievements of dominant club sides like Real Madrid and Barcelona.

Strikers Emilio Butragueno and Monolo and creative midfielder Michel are the main dangers in a team filled with talent and experience. The question is whether coach Luis Suarez can successfully harness these skills.

Spain triumph

BULIA, Italy, June 4. (AP): Spanish coach Luis Suarez said yesterday his players found it difficult to concentrate in World Cup practice games because of the festive atmosphere that surrounds the team.

Speaking to reporters after the Spanish reserve squad defeated the amateur Sveglino team 6-1, Suarez said the small field and lack of organization made it too easy for non-essential people to get onto the field.

"People are where they shouldn't be," he said. "It's a town fiesta and you can't throw people off the field."

After the locals took a 1-0 lead on what looked like a clear off side play, Barcelona forward Julio Salinas scored the first of his three goals.



Argentina's World Cup doctor Raul Madero (left) checks Maradona's toenail. (Reuters wirephoto)

Beckenbauer spies on rivals

CALDARO, Italy, June 4. (AP): West German manager Franz Beckenbauer wants any edge he can get for his team's opening World Cup match against Yugoslavia.

Beckenbauer flew from his team's training camp in northern Italy to Zagreb to watch Yugoslavia play the Netherlands in a warm-up match.

West Germany opens its World Cup campaign against Yugoslavia next Sunday in Milan, and Beckenbauer's players said they were starting to feel competitive fever.

While Beckenbauer was taking notes in Zagreb, his squad watched the game on television.

"The Yugoslav team has been good technically for many years but now they are also very strong tactically," said striker Rudi Voeller, who plays for Italian First Division team Roma.

After training for two weeks at home, the West Germans have moved their camp to this lakeside village of 6,000 on the so-called "Wine Route" popular with many German tourists.

More than 330,000 West Germans visited Caldaro last year. Thousands have used the long weekend to flock to the German-speaking area and several hundred of them gave the national team a rousing welcome when it arrived Saturday.

The team is staying at a hotel off the main road through the hilly area and the hotel already is becoming a pilgrimage site for German fans.



West Germany's Andreas Koeppcke (left) and Pierre Littbarski take some snap shots from the balcony of their hotel. (Reuters wirephoto)

The hotel is reserved for the team and Italian police are keeping the fans outside the perimeter fence.

"The welcome has been exceptional," Beckenbauer said. "But I hope the fans will understand we also need our peace and quiet."

After a light workout Saturday, the team's first full training session in sunny and warm weather was spoiled by the illness of Uwe Bein. The influential midfielder came down with the flu and had to quit the session.

"I don't think it's anything serious, he should be back in a day or two," Beckenbauer said.

Argentina captain Diego Maradona put an injury scare behind him and produced a dazzling display in a practice game yesterday, five days before the start of the World Cup finals.

Maradona went to a Rome clinic yesterday morning for treatment to an ingrowing toenail but he was back in action for an evening friendly with Italian amateur team Renato Cesarini.

Argentina team officials said Maradona's injury was not serious and that the treatment was purely precautionary.

There was no evidence of any problem as Maradona went through the whole range of his magical skills, scoring the final goal — with his head — in a 3-0 victory in the 40-minute match.

The first was an own goal by an Italian defender and the second was netted by Maradona's striking partner Claudio Caniggia.

Outsiders not aiming too high at World Cup

ROME, June 4. (Reuters): They dream of winning one match but they have nightmares of a string of humiliating defeats.

The six outsiders at the World Cup finals, the qualifiers from the non-European and South American countries, arrive in Italy with no grand illusions of taking the title.

"A 6-0 defeat by the Germans is possible," sighed United Arab Emirates (UAE) coach Carlos Alberto Pereira as he looked at the Group D fixtures where his tiny soccer nation faces the greater powers of West Germany, Yugoslavia and Colombia.

The other five — South Korea, Egypt, Cameroon, Costa Rica and the United States — have daunting tasks ahead, too, as they attempt to show that the gap between the established order and the rest of the world is closing.

In the past, outsiders have helped write World Cup history with heroic upsets such as the 1-0 win by the United States over England in 1950, North Korea's triumph over Italy by the same score in 1966 and Algeria's 2-1 victory against West Germany in 1982.

North Korea's stirring 5-3 defeat by Portugal in the 1966 quarterfinals, after the Asians led 3-0 in the first half, went down among the greatest matches the tournament has seen.

But, beset by internal rifts and suffering the loss of several key players, most of the six outsiders look poorly equipped to spring surprises this time.

Problems with coaches have dominated the run-up period to the finals. Costa Rica sacked Marvin Rodriguez and replaced him by former Mexico trainer Bora Milutinovic.

The UAE went a step further by losing two trainers in the space of two months. Mario Zagalo, formerly coach of the Brazilian team which won the 1970 World Cup, was fired in January and his successor Bernard Blaut resigned in March after the team finished last



Sword in hand, a UAE cheer-leader leaps into the air during his team's game against Imola. (Reuters wirephoto)

in the six-nation Gulf Cup, losing one game 6-0 to Kuwait.

Egypt's coach Mahmoud El Gohari resigned after fans barracked his team at a friendly, though he was later persuaded to stay on and both American team boss Bob Gansler and the Cameroon's Soviet coach Valeri Nepomniachi were close to being ousted after fierce criticism by their players.

Important players have been lost. Egypt's best midfielder Hisham Abdel Rasoul, scorer of three of their seven goals in

qualifiers, was so severely injured in a car crash he will be out of action for a year.

Hugo Perez, the best American forward, broke a leg and the UAE's best player Abdul Rezzak Ibrahim was suspended for a year by FIFA after a fight with a Belgian player.

Of the six, only South Korea and Egypt seem to have the kind of credentials which would justify limited optimism.

The Koreans, appearing in their second consecutive finals and impressive winners in the



Ali Thani Jumaa (right) and Imola's William Peder zoli fight for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Asian groups where they scored 30 goals and conceded just one, have an outstanding player in forward Kim Ju-Sung, a hero in the peninsula where he is nicknamed "Little Samson" because of his flowing locks.

But they are in a tough group with Belgium, Spain and Uruguay and trainer Lee Hoe-Taik is understandably cautious. "Our squad has a long way to go before it meets the standards of our opponents but I believe that any team in the world would find it difficult to beat us," he said.

Egypt, whose only previous appearance in the finals was in 1934, have produced some good form of late with surprise away wins in Europe against Czechoslovakia and Scotland, who

both qualified for the finals, but they face tougher matches in Italy against the Netherlands, England and Ireland.

"They are tough and more experienced," Gohari said. "But we know their tactics very well and they don't know ours."

Cameroon, African champions two years ago, were quite fancied by some neutrals but they slumped in this year's African Nations Cup finals where they failed to win a match.

They even resorted to calling 38-year-old Roger Milla out of retirement in the Indian Ocean island of La Reunion to boost their hopes of repeating their excellent 1982 performance when they drew all three group matches, one of them against Italy, the

eventual champions.

The United States have the distinction of being the only team from outside Europe or South America to reach the World Cup semifinals — but that was in the first tournament in 1930 when their team was mainly composed of British exiles.

This year they ask for no more than a respectable showing with no crushing defeats to help them on their way to staging the next tournament in 1994.

Costa Rica and the UAE are in the finals for the first time and they seek only to emerge without breaking El Salvador's embarrassing record of being the only team to concede double figures in a match. El Salvador lost 10-1 to Hungary in 1982.

The UAE, who boast no more than 3,400 registered players and whose football association is just 19 years old, are at least doing things in style. The players' hotel rooms in Imola have been fitted with whirlpool baths and a buffet of 85 marble to make them feel at home.

But Carlos Alberto is not happy with the preparations. The players were weakened by fasting through Ramadan, he complained.

Ali Thani Jumaa scored twice as the United Arab Emirates struggled to a 3-1 victory yesterday over Fourth Division club team Imola in a world cup warm-up match.

Jumaa was on target in the 35th and 83rd minutes, but the Emirates had to score twice in the last seven minutes to clinch the win after Dal Monte equalized for the Italians in the 48th minute.

Zuhair Bakheet Bilal scored the third goal for the Emirates.

Aman Al Talyani, known as the "Giantess of the Gulf," turned in an impressive performance for the World Cup contenders, building play impressively from the back. But the team's overall performance was disappointing, observers said.

Romania in Italy without Belodedici

BISCEGLIE, Italy, June 4. (AP): As the Romanian soccer team arrived yesterday in this Adriatic coastal village to begin final World Cup preparations, much of the talk centered on a player who was absent.

Miodrag Belodedici, a talented sweeper who defected to Yugoslavia in December 1988 was expected to rejoin the Romanian team for its first World Cup appearance in 20 years.

The return of the defender, who now plays for Red Star Belgrade, had been expected to solidify a questionable Romanian defense and epitomize the country's new openness since the December revolution that ousted dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Instead, Belodedici opted out of the Cup.

Romanian manager Emerich Jenei travelled to Belgrade twice to try to make sure that Belodedici would join the squad and to get approval from Red Star officials.

Team spokesman Ioanitsos Ovidiu said FIFA, the international soccer federation, gave its approval to Belodedici's return and said the defender had been expected to join the squad after Red Star finished its season on May 19.

Belodedici did not show up in Brussels for a World Cup warm-up game against Belgium in May 26, even though his name was on a list of the travelling party. And he didn't attend training sessions last week in Bucharest.

Ovidiu said Belodedici, who told journalists last month he would not practise or play in his native country, never notified Romanian officials of his intentions.

Mercedes hold off Jaguar for 3rd victory

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium, June 4. (Reuters) West Germans Jochen Mass and Karl Wendlinger fought off a fierce challenge from the Jaguar of Dutchman Jan Lammers and Briton Andy Wallace to give Mercedes victory in the World Sportscar Championship yesterday.

The West Germans finished 90 seconds ahead of the Jaguar to notch their third win in four races and keep Mercedes on top of the world championship table with 27 points to the 19 of second-placed Jaguar.

Mass and Wendlinger lead the drivers' standings on 21 points, three clear of Jean-Louis Schlesser of France and Italian Mauro Baldi.

Intermittent rain caused early chaos with many teams forced into the pits to change from wet to dry tyres and then being caught out as it started to drizzle again.

Mercedes stayed out longer than most, and very nearly threw away the 300-mile (485 km) race as their rain tyres started to overheat, letting the Jaguar and the Nissan of Britons Julian Bailey and Kenny Acheson past.

Mass forced his way back past them and back to regain the lead which the Mercedes held until the finish.

Portland ready for Detroit

PORTLAND, Oregon, June 4. (AP) The Portland Trail Blazers left for Detroit yesterday insisting they won't be intimidated by the Pistons in the National Basketball Association finals.

"We have to play them at their place but we match up well with them," coach Rick Adelman said. "We know that they're good but we know we can play with them."

The Blazers worked out at a suburban high school then went home to watch the second half of game 7 of the Eastern Conference finals between Detroit and Chicago. The Pistons won 93-74.

Adelman had expected going for the championship, it's nice to be playing the defending champions," he said.

The finals will feature two teams that often struggle with their shooting but win with defense and rebounding.

"We're just as physical as they are," Portland forward Buck Williams said. "It all depends on which team can make the adjustments and control the tempo of the basketball game. Both teams are real good defensively. It's going to be a good defensive series."

Offensive

"To have a championship team, you have to build on your defensive ability versus the offensive ability. All season long I think Detroit has been thriving on playing well defensively. It's similar to the situation we've been in."

The Pistons earned the nickname "The Bad Boys" last season led by the aggressive play of centre Bill Laimbeer, forward Rick Mahorn, now with Philadelphia, guard Joe Dumars and forward Dennis Rodman.

Adelman said the Blazers don't mind being considered as the "Pistons West" in terms of playing style.

"Both teams defend well and they both rebound well," he said. "They have been able to win with their defense. That's a proven point. And I think in these playoffs we've done that, too. I think we're very similar in the way we play."

The Pistons and Blazers each won 59 regular-season games, tied for the second-best record in the league behind the Los Angeles Lakers. They split their regular season series. The Blazers won in Portland 102-82 on Nov 26, and the Pistons won in Detroit 111-106 on Jan 13.

Jones hits Derby for ton

Kiwis declare at 252 for five



Jones scored an unbeaten 121

DERBY, England, June 4. (Reuters) Andrew Jones hit a sparkling unbeaten 121 against Derbyshire yesterday to underline New Zealand's batting strength just five days before they take on England in the first Test.

The 31-year-old from Wellington is very much the under-rated member of a formidable four-some which also includes Martin Crowe, Skipper John Wright and Mark Greatbatch.

Wright is not playing in this three-day match and for once Crowe and Greatbatch did not contribute significantly as New Zealand scored 252 for five declared on the second day of the rain-hit game.

Jones made up for them. His innings occupied only 144 balls and included 14 fours, many of them through the covers. It was his eighth first class innings of the tour and the fifth time he has passed 50.

He negotiated an opening burst from West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop and then battled with increasing confidence against England's new strike

bowler Devon Malcolm who failed to take a wicket.

Derby were 30 without loss by the close.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings (over-

night 9-0)

T. Franklin c Bowler b Cork.....19

J. Crowe lbw b Jean-Jacques.....1

A. Jones not out.....121

M. Crowe c Krikken b Kuiper.....32

M. Greatbatch c and b Kuiper.....3

M. Priest c Bowler b Jean-Jacques.....20

J. Bracewell not out.....40

Extras (lb-11 w-1 nb-4).....16

Total (five wickets declared).....252

Fall of wickets: 1-11 2-55 3-123 4-

132-5 151

Did not bat: A. Parore, M. Snadden,

D. Morrison, J. Millmow.

Bowling: Bishop 12-3-37-0, Mal-

colm 12-1-36-0, Jean-Jacques 14-2-

67-2, Cork 14-2-48-1, Kuiper 10-2-52-

2

DERBYSHIRE first innings

K. Barnett not out.....14

P. Bowler not out.....11

Extras (lb-1 nb-4).....5

Total (no wicket).....30

To bat: J. Morris, B. Roberts, A.

Kuiper, C. Adams, K. Krikken, I.

Bishop, D. Malcolm, M. Jean-

Jacques, D. Cork.

Bowling-to-date: Morrison 4-0-16-

0, Millmow 4-1-13-0.

CLARKSBURG, New Jersey,

June 4. (AP) Mister Frisky, the

beaten favourite in the Kentucky

Derby, was responding to treat-

ment yesterday and gaining in his

battle against a life-threatening

abscess.

The colt, who finished third in

the pre-race on May 19, "is

alert and responsive breathes

normally and can eat hay and

drink water with little difficulty,"

said Dr Scott E. Palmer, surgeon

at the New Jersey Equine Clinic.

"He's not out of the woods yet

but he's making good progress

and we can relax a little."

The colt from Puerto Rico was

listed in stable condition, respon-

ding well to antibiotics, but

remained in intensive care and

was being monitored around-

the-clock. Palmer said the ab-

scess was lanced and drained and

the infection did not appear to

have spread.

The grapefruit-sized growth

was located behind the horse's

adam's apple and he had lost 100

pounds (45 kilograms) because

he was unable to eat.

Lawrence rips through Somerset batting line

LONDON, June 4. (Reuters) Pace bowler David Lawrence ripped through the Somerset batting with five for 18 as Gloucestershire cruised to an eight-wicket win at Bristol in their Sunday League match.

Conditions were perfect for his seamers, a heavy cloud cover and damp pitch, and he took four wickets in his first 17 balls at a cost of only four runs.

Somerset were shot out for only 118 and Bill Athey with an unbeaten 53 led Gloucestershire past their total in just under 25 overs.

Middlesex openers Desmond Haynes and Mike Roseberry continued their devastating partnership, sharing another century partnership.

Having put on 306 together in a championship match against Essex on Saturday, they tore apart the Warwickshire attack in a match restricted to 17 overs a side because of rain.

Chasing a target of 116 at just under seven an over, the pair slashed fours and sizes seemingly at will in a stand of 107.

Haynes was out for exactly 50 and Roseberry was unbeaten on 51 at the finish.

Surrey gained their first Sunday victory of the season when they beat Northamptonshire at the Oval by four wickets in a game restricted to 19 overs as rain hit many of the matches.

Northants' efforts to slog their way to a decent total faltered against some accurate bowling and they were dismissed for 101 with two balls of their allotted overs remaining.

Surrey also struggled as seamers Duncan Wild and Greg Thomas each took three wickets but they passed the total with five balls and four wickets remaining.

Results

At Bristol: Gloucestershire beat Somerset by eight wickets. Somerset 118 in 39.3 overs (D. Lawrence five for 18). Gloucestershire 119 for two in 25.5 overs (W. Athey 53 not out). Gloucestershire four points.

At Leicester: Hampshire beat Leicestershire by five wickets. Leicestershire 166 for eight in 38.2 overs (P. Willey 68 not out). Hampshire 169 for five in 38.2 overs (D. Gower 53, M. Marshall 44). Hampshire four points.

At Lord's: Middlesex beat Warwickshire by nine wickets. Warwickshire 115 for six, 17 overs in 38.2 overs (A. Kallicharran 41 not out). Middlesex 116 for one in 13 overs (M. Roseberry 51 not out, D. Haynes 50). Middlesex four points.

At the Oval: Surrey beat Northamptonshire by four wickets. Northamptonshire 101 in 18.4 overs (C. Bullen three for 13). Surrey 102 for six in 18.1 overs (D. Haynes 50, M. Marshall 44). Surrey four points.

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Desmond Haynes in devastating form



Olympic delegates check on 1992 Games

BARCELONA, Spain, June 4, (Reuters): Delegates from 167 nations gathered today to check Barcelona's preparations for the 1992 Summer Olympic Games while facing a barrage of lobbying from candidates wanting to host the 1996 Games.

Delegates said efforts to control the

snowballing numbers of athletes and trainers would top the agendas at the three-day meeting of the Association of National Olympic Committees (Anoc) and the two-day meeting of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch has proposed that numbers

at Barcelona and future Games should be limited to 10,000 athletes and 5,000 officials but Anoc has yet to accept the idea.

One Anoc delegate doubted whether Barcelona would be able to accommodate even that many in the Olympic village.

But the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee (Cooib) has assured the IOC that it will be able to house all the 40,000-strong "Olympic family".

Cooib president and Barcelona Mayor Pasquall Maragall will present Samaranch with an overall progress report on Wednesday.

Acropolis Rally

LAGONISSI, Greece, June 4, (Reuters): Spain's Carlos Sainz seized the lead in his Toyota Celica Turbo on the second day of the Acropolis Rally today but Lancia's Flying Finn Juha Kankkunen was in hot pursuit.

Leading placings after 18 special stages: 1. Carlos Sainz (Spain) Toyota Celica Turbo two hours 11 minutes 33 seconds; 2. Juha Kankkunen (Finland) Lancia Delta HF 2:11:35; 3. Kenneth Eriksson (Sweden) Mitsubishi Galant 2:12:01; 4. Massimo Biasion (Italy) Lancia Delta HF 2:12:03; 5. Didier Auriol (France) Lancia Delta HF 2:12:18; 6. Ari Vatanen (Finland) Mitsubishi Galant 2:14:21; 7. Mikael Ericsson (Sweden) Toyota Celica Turbo 2:19:04; 8. Rayneri Micheletti (Italy) Lancia Delta Integrale 2:24:37; 9. Yannis Vardinoyannis (Greece) Lancia Delta Integrale 2:27:11; 10. De Martini Paola (Italy) Audi Quattro 2:27:45.

Baseball games

NEW YORK, June 4, (Reuters): Results of Major League baseball games played yesterday:

American League		
Baltimore	7	NY Yankees 3
Toronto	7	Milwaukee 4
Boston	8	Cleveland 2
Kansas City	8	Oakland 2
Detroit	5	Seattle 0
California	7	Texas 4
Chicago WS	5	Minnesota 2

National League		
Philadelphia	8	NY Mets 3
Montreal	4	Pittsburgh 3
St. Louis	7	Chicago Cubs 4
San Francisco	7	Houston 3
Cincinnati	2	Los Angeles 0
Atlanta	4	San Diego 2

British Masters

WOBURN, England, June 4, (Reuters): British Ryder Cup golfer Mark James, who won three European events last year, scored his first 1990 victory at the British Masters yesterday to pass the million sterling mark in career earnings.

Kemper Open

POTOMAC, Maryland, June 4, (Reuters): Gil Morgan rolled in a four-foot putt to save par on the 72nd hole yesterday to win the \$1 million Kemper Open by a single stroke over hard-charging Australian Ian Baker-Finch.

Gerring wins

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania, June 4, (Reuters): Cathy Gerring shot a one-under-par 71 yesterday to win the \$300,000 Lady Keystone Open golf tournament for her first LPGA career title.

Edinburgh clubs

EDINBURGH, June 4, (Reuters): Edinburgh's two soccer clubs, Hearts and Hibernian, are on the verge of a surprise merger after more than 100 years of intense rivalry. Both clubs have been involved in secret talks in London over the weekend regarding the viability of a Hearts-inspired deal.

Trevino triumphs

SCARBOROUGH, New York, June 4, (AP): Lee Trevino birdied the fifth extra hole and won the commemorative golf tournament yesterday in a four-way playoff, thwarting 67-year-old Mike Fitchick's attempt to add four years to his record for oldest winner of a Senior PGA Tour event.

Bridge

RESULTS of the Hubara Centre Bridge Club game played on Saturday:

- N/S
1. Jamila Akel & Kamil Akel
 2. Aurora & Jaggi
 3. Dr Oskay & Ezzeldin
- E/W
1. Nazareth & Jawahir
 2. Elbaz & Sherin
 3. Saad Suleiman & Salman Ali

Leconte stuns Chesnokov

Novotna upsets Sabatini



Leconte edges past Chesnokov



Seles: 28th straight win

PARIS, June 4, (Reuters): Henri Leconte turned on a thrilling exhibition of tennis in front of his home crowd as more seeds tumbled out of the French Open today.

Leconte, who has enjoyed a love-hate relationship with French fans over the years, captured the imagination of everyone on a packed centre court at Roland Garros by downing eighth seed Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union 6-4 6-3 4-6 2-6 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals.

Men's fifteenth seed Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina also perished against Sweden's Jonas Svensson while women's fourth seed Gabriela Sabatini made a similarly early exit from the tournament, beaten 6-4 7-5 by Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia.

For Leconte, widely criticised in Paris for his performance in losing to Mats Wilander in the 1988 French Open final, the result was a triumphant answer to those who had written him off after he underwent back surgery last year.

Despite losing the first two sets with the aid of some inspired volleying at the net by Leconte, it was Chesnokov who looked the more likely victor when he clawed his way back to two sets all.

But the Frenchman, whose world ranking dropped to 161st earlier this year, rediscovered his touch in the deciding set to win arguably the best match of the tournament so far in just under three hours.

"I was feeling tired at the beginning of the fifth set but the crowd helped me. Without them I would never have won," said a relieved Leconte. The 26-year-old Frenchman now plays Svensson, who he beat in the semifinal in 1988, in the last eight.

Perez-Roldan was also unlucky to run into an in-form Svensson at the wrong time. The Swede was, by his own admission, "killed" in the first set but recovered to register a highly impressive 2-6 4-6 2-6 victory.

Argentina's unfortunate day had begun earlier with the unexpected defeat of Sabatini. The world number five looked completely out of touch against Novotna, seeded eleventh, and lost an error-strewn match in just under two hours.

Yugoslav second seed Monica Seles had early problems against Laura Gildemeister of Peru but recovered to win 6-4 6-0 and record her 29th successive victory in a run dating back to March.

Thomas Muster of Austria continued his determined march into the last eight with an excellent 7-6 (7-4) 6-3 6-2 win over another unsuccessful Argentine Martin Jaite, the tenth seed.

Muster, seeded seventh, raced to victory in two hours nine minutes and has now dropped only one set in his four matches in Paris over the past week.

The only other player among the remaining quarterfinalists with a record to match Muster's is 18-year-old Yugoslav Goran Ivanisevic who has also conceded just one set.

Ivanisevic, maintaining the form which surprised Boris Becker in the first round, defeated Niclas Kroon of Sweden 6-2 6-4 7-5.

Only five seeds remain in the men's draw after eight days of continuous upsets.

Third seed Andre Agassi and fellow American Michael Chang, seeded eleventh, were joined by fourth seed Andre Gomez.

Backley serves notice

CARDIFF, June 4, (Reuters): Steve Backley, Britain's javelin-throwing prodigy, served notice yesterday that Swede Patrik Bodin's world record may not be safe for long.

Backley, 21, launched the second longest throw in history, 88.46 metres, at the British Championships, 64 centimetres short of Bodin's record of 89.10 set in Texas on March 24.

"I knew my second throw was close to the record when I wandered over to have a look at how far it had gone, but the record hadn't really been in my mind today," he said.

"But now, I'll be looking to break it each time I compete," added Backley, who will have another chance in the Britain-Finland international in Helsinki on Thursday.

Two other British track stars also served notice that world records are at their mercy.

Local hero Colin Jackson ran the fastest 110 metres hurdles race ever seen in Britain, 13.10 seconds, while Olympic 100 metres silver medalist Linford Christie recorded the fastest sprint ever in Wales, 10.13 seconds.

"Roger Kingdom's world record (12.92 secs) is one of my main focusses now," said the 23-year-old Jackson.

Christie sounded just as positive. "I've decided this is the year that I'm going to try to establish myself as the world number one."

"Physically, I'm in great shape, stronger and faster than ever before."

● World Javelin champion Fatima Whitbread

underwent an emergency operation on a broken bone in her throwing shoulder sustained at the United Kingdom championships.

Whitbread, in her comeback event after surgery last May on her shoulder, hurt it again in her final throw of the event.

She first hoped the injury might only be a dislocation or a rupture. But hospital doctors discovered a bone had been broken and a tendon torn — and Whitbread was immediately taken to the operating theatre.

● American Doug Nordquist cleared an impressive 2.35 metres yesterday to win the high jump at the Irvine Invitational Athletics Meet.

Nordquist came up with his fine effort on his last attempt to outduel Jake Jacoby, who cleared 2.31 metres.

"I made a slight change in my approach, and it made all the difference," an elated Nordquist said after his leap, which came close to equalling the 2.36 metres jump by Nick Saunders of Bermuda earlier this year at the Commonwealth Games.

● Havana will host the 1993 Athletics World Cup, the International Amateur Athletic Federation council decided yesterday.

The Cuban capital, which is also staging the Pan-American Games in 1991, was chosen ahead of Athens, Singapore and Birmingham, England.

The 1992 World Cross Country Championships will be held in Boston in the United States, while Seoul will stage the World Junior Championships, also in 1992.

Pope blesses Cup referees

VATICAN CITY, June 4, (Reuters): Pope John Paul II blessed the World Cup's referees today and urged them to guarantee fair play and sportsmanship.

"By ensuring discipline, restraint, goodwill and mutual respect on the field, you will make a fine contribution to the educational value of the championship," he told the 36 men in a frescoed hall in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace.

The Pope said the success of the month-long soccer spectacular, which starts in Milan on Friday with a game between Cameroon and defending champions Argentina, could not be measured in financial terms alone.

"That would be to destroy the very spirit of the sport," he said.

"This is not only a sporting occasion of the highest order, with its share of athletic excellence and healthy rivalry between the competing teams. It can also be a great festival of understanding, solidarity and friendship between people," he said.

Group A matches in Rome with Austria, the United States and Czechoslovakia should not pose them too many early problems.

Brazil, like Italy seeking a record fourth World Cup, have promised a more disciplined approach after delighting the world with their glorious artistry

in recent tournaments before falling to more prosaic and realistic opponents.

Midfielder Valdo reflected the new professionalism in the Brazilian camp. "To say that the world's most beautiful soccer is played in Brazil is just words," he said. "The fact is we haven't won the World Cup for 20 years. We aim to repeat our 1970 victory in Mexico, even if our style is not so pleasing."

The Benfica player and Silas, also exiled in Portugal, are the keys in midfield, the men capable of providing the bullets for strikers Careca, Bebeto or Romario to fire.

To win, Brazil would have to repeat a feat they achieved in 1958 in Sweden when they became the only team to capture the World Cup outside their own continent.

If Brazil, who play their Group C matches in Turin against Sweden, Costa Rica and Scotland, really do curb their natural instincts to put on a harder face, then the role of popular favourites will inevitably pass to the Dutch.

Driven by their brilliant AC Milan trio of Marco van Basten, Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard, the Netherlands are the greatest modern exponents of flowing, attacking soccer as they showed in winning the European title two years ago.

Worthy successors to the much lauded Johan Cruyff-Johan Neeskens side, the outstanding national team of the 1970s, the new Dutch wave will hope to do better than the earlier generation who lost both the 1974 and 1978 finals to hosts West Germany and Argentina respectively.

They meet England in Group F in Cagliari, the match seen as the most likely flashpoint for fan

Italy pays homage to soccer

ROME, June 4, (Reuters): Italy, spiritual home of soccer excellence, stages a month-long homage to the sport which fires its deepest national passions when it launches the 14th World Cup finals on Friday.

In the 31 days separating the opening game in Milan between defending champions Argentina and Cameroon and the July 8 final in Rome matching the tournament's two outstanding teams, global attention will focus on the unique emotional relationship linking Italy and soccer.

But the world-wide television audience of 26 billion expected to tune into the finals will join the Italians in praying that this special love does not transform itself into hatred through mindless violence by fans.

Outbreaks of hooliganism could wreck what promises to be the greatest celebration ever seen of the world's most popular sport.

There could hardly be a better choice of hosts than Italy, not only favourites to win the tournament but also the long established centre stage for the dream of the world's soccer artists.

Apart from the 22 members of the Italian squad, nine other countries provide the finals with 29 players who earn their fortunes in the world's richest League.

Italy, who won in 1934 when they last hosted the competition, may be the logical tip for the title, they face a considerable challenge from a quartet with serious aspirations in Brazil, the Netherlands, West Germany and Argentina.

Current form suggests at least four others have an outside chance — England, the Soviet Union, Spain and Uruguay.

There has been some gloom in Italy about the national team's recent inability to score goals but Gianluca Vialli is one of the sharpest strikers on view and a player who tends to rise to the big occasion.

The defence, superbly marshalled by libero Franco Baresi, is probably the best around and it is likely to take an exceptional team to beat the Italians.

Italy have a habit of starting slowly in tournaments but their trainer Azeglio Vicini is not worried. "We hope to go the distance," he said. "We're not interested in fireworks from the start because we could fizzle out immediately."

"We feel capable of promising a place in the last four at least, without creating too many illusions."

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Brazil, like Italy seeking a record fourth World Cup, have promised a more disciplined approach after delighting the world with their glorious artistry

in recent tournaments before falling to more prosaic and realistic opponents.

Midfielder Valdo reflected the new professionalism in the Brazilian camp. "To say that the world's most beautiful soccer is played in Brazil is just words," he said. "The fact is we haven't won the World Cup for 20 years. We aim to repeat our 1970 victory in Mexico, even if our style is not so pleasing."

The Benfica player and Silas, also exiled in Portugal, are the keys in midfield, the men capable of providing the bullets for strikers Careca, Bebeto or Romario to fire.

To win, Brazil would have to repeat a feat they achieved in 1958 in Sweden when they became the only team to capture the World Cup outside their own continent.

If Brazil, who play their Group C matches in Turin against Sweden, Costa Rica and Scotland, really do curb their natural instincts to put on a harder face, then the role of popular favourites will inevitably pass to the Dutch.

Driven by their brilliant AC Milan trio of Marco van Basten, Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard, the Netherlands are the greatest modern exponents of flowing, attacking soccer as they showed in winning the European title two years ago.

Worthy successors to the much lauded Johan Cruyff-Johan Neeskens side, the outstanding national team of the 1970s, the new Dutch wave will hope to do better than the earlier generation who lost both the 1974 and 1978 finals to hosts West Germany and Argentina respectively.

They meet England in Group F in Cagliari, the match seen as the most likely flashpoint for fan



West Germany's Lothar Matthäus signs autographs for a group of South Tyrolean mountain soldiers. (Reuters wirephoto)

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violence, and Egypt and Ireland in Palermo.

West Germany, the most consistent of World Cup nations who have reached a record five finals including four of the last six, plan to send off team boss Franz Beckenbauer with a special distinction.

Beckenbauer, who bows out of soccer after the finals, could become only the second person after Brazil's Mario Zagallo to win the title as both player and coach.

His team, who should have few problems winning Group D in Milan against Yugoslavia, the United Arab Emirates and Colombia, looks much better than the side which lost to Argentina in the 1986 final. A major new star in little midfielder Thomas Haessler has emerged to join the likes of Lothar Matthäus, Rudi Voeller and Pierre Littbarski.

Argentina, who play their other group matches against the Soviet Union and Romania in Naples, have won only six official matches since their 1986 victory and have suffered chronic problems in scoring goals.

But with Diego Maradona in the form of his life, it would be rash to say they have no chance of repeating their Mexico win.

All the favourites should get through the group matches and into the second round where the 16 survivors start the knock-out series.

But the toughest contest is expected to be in Group E in Verona and Udine where Belgium, Uruguay, Spain and South Korea, arguably the best of the non-European and South American teams, will be involved in some tightly fought skirmishes.

(See also Page 22)



Mansoor triumphs in Dubai

Hassan Mansoor of Kuwait took the top position in the 12th Gulf Water Skiing Championship, held in Dubai recently. This is the first time that any one from Kuwait has won this event. Two other skiers from Kuwait took good positions in the championship. Adel Al Waqayyan was fifth while Alawi Taqi finished fifth in the novices section.

The following represented Kuwait in this event: Hassan Mansoor (team captain), Adel Al Waqayyan, Ali Al Malafi, Aref Al Adwani, Alawi Taqi, Abdullah Al Artaf, Chuck Allen and Nada Abdurrahim.

Teams from Bahrain, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait



and Ras Al Khaimah took part in the championship. Kuwait will hold the second Kuwait Open Skiing Championship in mid-October. A ski show is also being invited for the same event from the United States.

Mansoor won the Kuwait event last year, Mansoor, 33, has been in the sport for the last 20 years.

Above left: Mansoor checks the winner's trophy for the Dubai event. Right: Mansoor in action.

All-Filipino tournament

THE opening ceremonies for the 1990 All-Filipino Tennis Tournament will be held on June 8 at the Messiah Beach Resort during the Philippine Independence Day celebrations. All participants and their families are requested to attend wearing a white jogging pants and white T-shirts with collar. The event will start at 6:30 am. The double knock-out system will be true only to the first round losers who will form a loser's circle. The winner here will be given a consolation prize. Every participant is assured of at least two matches each. Refreshments for the whole tournament will be provided by Cascade Dry — the official softdrink of the games. The principal sponsors are National Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Tourism and Shipping Corp, Al Rashid Freight in co-operation with City International Exchange/Far East Bank and Mahabey Restaurant. Aside from Championship trophies, fabulous prizes await the winners including a plane ticket to Manila, courtesy of KTSC. For more information, call Ed Samia: 5339587, Danny Felix: 3901061, Rod Mendoza: 5339879.



Some Spanish team members warm up before the start of their training session. Right: A restaurant owner hangs World Cup flags outside his pizzeria in Rome. (Reuters wirephoto)

